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TONY WOODCOCK Nottingham Forest

Argentina to tour Europe

ARGENTINA are putting their world champions' reputation on the line in Europe in a split tour next summer. Seven fixtures have been sorted out, starting with the 1978 revenge match against Holland in Berne on May 22, organised on FIFA's behalf.

The only doubt is whether the game will have the status worthy of it, since Argentina may find clubs reluctant to release players preparing for the Libertadores Cup and with the 1982 World Cup a long way off, manager Cesar Menotti — assuming he remains — won't have the necessary muscle to lean on them.

From Berne, Argentina go down to Rome on May 26 to play Italy — the only team to beat them during the World Cup Finals — and on May 29, they hope to be at Wembley.

At the time of writing negotiations were still going on, so if the Wembley date falls through, the Argentines will appear in Dublin in a charity match against an All-Ireland XI.

If they *do* play at Wembley on May 29, the Dublin game will be switched to June 6.

The tourists then return home to get on with the metropolitan championship before returning for three games in Europe in September. A definite fixture is with West Germany in West Berlin on September 12, with games all set against Yugoslavia (Belgrade, 15th or 16th) and Czechoslovakia (Prague, 19th).

If the Argentines do bring a full strength side there are some cracking games in prospect — if only because of the passions aroused from past clashes with England, Italy, West Germany and — not least — World Cup Final victims Holland.

GORDON BAN

JOHN GORDON, Rollo Kyle and David McCartney, the three Scottish officials who accepted gifts from AC Milan before a UEFA Cup tie, have been suspended until at least April 1981.

That was the verdict of the Referee Committee of the Scottish FA, after full examination of statements from the trio, a list of the clothing they brought home from Italy, and due regard for the need to clamp down on this latest blow to Scotland's international prestige.

World Cup man Gordon, has, at 48, clearly refereed his last match, after 11 years on the FIFA list — a sad exit.

The events before Milan's UEFA Cup second leg against Levsky-Spartak (Milan won 3-0 on November 1), were inadvertently revealed to Scottish refereeing supervisor Jack Mowat, in a chance remark by the father of Rollo Kyle.

Milan were fined £8,000 by UEFA.

Full story – see World Soccer Diary, Page 26.

RIVELINO WRANGLE

FIFA are being brought into the wrangle over Roberto Rivelino's transfer to the Saudi Arabian club, El-Helal.

Fluminense of Rio have protested to the Brazilian sports authority, the CBD, and they are preparing to call on the world soccer body to ban the veteran midfielder.

The trouble arose when two cheques for £50,000 — instalments on Rivelino's transfer — both bounced.

Fluminense, furious because they badly need the money, have already contacted the player, ordering him to return to Rio. Rivelino, however, has told them he is happy "living like a prince" and has no wish to return home.

The ultimate solution will probably be a transfer to New York Cosmos, who have long had designs on the bandy superstar who shot (literally) to stardom when playing as a deep-lying left-winger in Brazil's 1970 World Cup-winning side.

Cyprus beaten

CYPRUS made their usual debut in the European championship — losing 5-0 to Spain in Salamanca in a group three tie.

Some 17,500 fans saw the one-sided game in which the score could have been far higher but for Cypriot goalkeeper Pantziaras.

Spain went ahead after nine minutes through skipper Juan Manuel Asensi and further goals came from Vicente Del Bosque (10 mins), Carlos Santillana (52 and 77) and Ruben Cano (65).

Spain top the group with maximum points from three games.

Meanwhile group rivals Rumania went down 2-1 to Greece in a friendly in Athens.

In the final of the MITROPA CUP — the forerunner of the Champions' Cup — Partizan Belgrade took the title for Yugoslavia in beating Hungarian league leaders Honved 1-0 in Belgrade. The scorer was Trifunovic, after a penalty award by Czechoslovak referee Antonin Vancel.

The BALKAN CLUB CUP final was won by Rijeka, also from Yugoslavia, beating Jiul of Rumania 4-1 in Rijeka in the second leg.

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Featured on the front cover this month is action from a match between Tottenham Hotspur (in white) and Birmingham City. Don McAllister (left) and Colin Lee (9) are the Spurs' players while Gary Emmanuel (right) puts in a determined challenge.

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by
Dr JOZEF VENGLOS
Manager of Czechoslovakia

OUR VIEW OF THE WEMBLEY DEFEAT

MANY teams from Eastern Europe have their players in lengthy training camps but I know from experience that the players do not like to be away from homes and families for long periods. So I have decided on just short get togethers before matches. We meet on Sundays, and for a home game we work together on Mondays and Tuesdays.

In my opinion we have to choose players from the way they play for their clubs, and of course this means watching everyone very closely.

For example, Frantisek Stambachr plays a very different role for his club Dukla Praha compared with his job in the national team, but he can adapt his play quite easily.

Marian Masny is now our key player. He had a very good game at Wembley and proved his class. After all his international experience he has developed into a really good player. But strangely, he plays far better for the national team than he does for Slovan Bratislava. As the former manager of Slovan I know Masny very well of course.

The key to future success for Czechoslovakia lies with working very well with the coaches of the top clubs. We must co-operate with the clubs, but also we must have fair play from them.

Having been the manager of Slovan Bratislava for 10 years I understand the problems and how clubs feel about releasing their players. But I also had a good grounding in my new job, being manager of our Under 23 team first and then as assistant to Vaclav Jezek for three years which was highlighted by our winning the European championship.

The side we have now is what I would call a half way team. About half of the present team played in the 1976 European championship, including Anton Ondrus, our captain who missed the wembley game because of injuries he received in a car crash three days before we left Prague. The other half of the team is new to international football this season.

Experience is vitally important for the players. That is why this season I tried to arrange for them to meet the best in Europe. We have now played West Germany, Italy and England at Wembley and the players can only benefit from their experience.

For example, before the Wembley game six of our players had no experience of English football. Even Ladislav Jurkemik who is a relatively old player who stood in for Ondrus has only played against one or two English club sides.

Many Czech people were horrified when they heard we had arranged to play at Wembley, fearing a big defeat. Of course I wanted to win at Wembley, but I was very pleased that we were able to play there because I know how important it was for our players.

The group of players that we have now are all very good friends and very intelligent about the game. But there is so much to learn if they are to do well at top level, and Wembley was part of their football education.

I want my team to play the very best sides in friendly games because it is only from meeting the best that players gain the necessary experience and can develop. In these key games they must show all their possibilities and learn from experiences like playing at Wembley.

In the current European championship we began with a very good 3-1 away win over Sweden in Stockholm. But we must wait and see. I think we have about 30% chance of qualifying for the final stages.

I went to Luxembourg to see them play at home to France, and I know now that we will have to play very well even to win there. In Europe now there is no such thing as an easy game.

In my time as manager, our best performance so far was the first half against England at Wembley. I was very pleased with that, and I think we were a little unfortunate to have met Shilton on one of his very best days.

I liked the new style England team that has developed under Ron Greenwood. England are now playing a far more skilful game, that is not typical of English league football.

England now are more spectacular than they were two or three years ago and that is obviously due to the influence of Mr. Greenwood. England in my opinion are now playing a style of football that is a good mix between the best in the English game and the best in continental European football. This Euro-English style produces a very different game than England played before, and I liked it.

I think that as far as the European Championship is concerned, it will be difficult for both England and Czechoslovakia to qualify. But if we meet England in Italy in 1980 we have a chance now, thanks to our experience at Wembley.

The European Championship is more difficult for us than it was in 1976. Difficult and different. In Yugoslavia in 1976 we had to play only two games, the semi final and final. Now this time there will be more games in the final stages in Italy and this gives us problems in the psychological field and also because our players do not generally have the physical condition to play three

England's somewhat lucky winning goal against Czechoslovakia.

in an interview with ERIC BATTY

or four games at top level in a few days. But we shall work hard and try to get the players into better condition.

All over Europe there are good teams now. Holland are clearly very good. And Austria, Spain and France have all imporved based on the evidence I saw in Argentina during the World Cup. England are improving too, though Sweden are not as strong now as they were two or three years ago.

I thought Poland should have done better in Argentina too, but I really think that the standard overall is very high. Even Luxembourg have half their team playing abroad as professionals so there really are no easy games.

Foorball has become a much more difficult game to play as we saw in Argentina. For example, in the 1974 World Cup Cruyff was very good but he was only a schemer. In Argentina, even the clever midfield players like Cruyff have developed further.

In 1978 the midfield players all had defensive duties too. They had to cover the entire midfield from one penalty area to the other. This makes big demands on their physical condition, and of course they have to be good defensive players too, as well as good going forward. The stars have to play a full role in both defence and attack.

Even the very top players must show more quality in individual skills. They must be able to switch from attack to defence and then to attack again. The really top players now are of a more universal type.

We knew in theory before 1978 that universal players had to develop. We all talked about it, but I think it was achieved in Argentina.

Argentina were quite the best team in the World Cup and it was excellent for the game that they played attacking football.

Dr. Josef Venglos

Pressure

Argentina in my opinion were the most improved team between 1974 and 1978 and it did not really help them very much playing at home. I say it was not easy for them because I know that they were under very great pressure to win the World Cup and that makes it all the more difficult. They were under the greatest pressure for political reasons and from the media in their country. And they were under pressure too because of the money they were offered if they won and also from the public.

But I thought Argentina won because they had a lot of very high quality players. Fillo made some remarkable saves, and I think that Passarella, Tarantini, Kempes, Ardiles and Bertoni were all excellent. I also liked Luque very much before he was injured.

Elsewhere there were players like Krol and Haan; Oscar, Batista and Dirceu; Bettega, Rossi, Scirea and Tardelli; Six and Lacombe who was very dangerous in the air. Krankl and Prohaska also played very well. There was no one like Pele but many really very good players.

This is the level that our players must work to achieve. At Wembley I learned that our players can play an attacking style of football against the top teams in the world. But we must still improve our physical condition, so that it compares well with our skill and knowledge of tactics and understanding of the game. We must still improve in the individual and collective sense but most of all in stamina.

Against England I thought we showed that we have improved our ability to defend, particularly in heading. I know we were not put under really heavy pressure in the air but I think we are improving.

The best England players I thought were Shilton, Anderson and Keegan, even though I did not think that he was at his best. Currie was also good but not consistent, while I also liked Barnes but must say that I thought that Barmos played him very well.

Masny, Shilton and Nehoda were the players that stood out overall for me, and it was a great pity that Ondrus could not play because he has the ability to go upfield and score and he might have been able to do that for us. But one week before the game he had a car crash and as well as concussion he had 15 stitches put in a head wound and also damaged an old knee injury.

I do not think that we were at our best at Wembley because we had only one more game to play before the end of our autumn season. Looking at this problem from a different side, Dukla were very good against Everton in the UEFA Cup, but just before the Wembley game they lost very badly in the next round away to VfB Stuttgart.

At Wembley I had the feeling several times that it was like an end of season game for us and I must talk with Jaroslav Vejvoda the coach of Dukla and try to find out why. Then we must try to prepare our players to maintain their best form and physical condition right through the period of competitive games.

After the domestic programme is over we shall take the national squad to Italy for two matches with AS Roma and Perugia. In these matches we will give an opportunity to some of the younger players who have been in our squad for the very good games against West Germany and Italy and England but did not get a game. Then before the European championship starts again we travel in January to South America. We will take the national squad but play only as a Czech League XI in six matches in Argentina and Colombia.

BOCA JUNIORS It was easy in the end

Libertadores Cup Final report from ERIC WEIL

BOCA JUNIORS retained the Libertadores Cup with a second leg 4-0 home win over Deportivo Cali (after a 0-0 draw in the first leg in Colombia) to make it the 12th time that an Argentine club had won the annual trophy for South American club champions since its inception 19 years ago.

The first leg at Cali featured slow, unexciting play and a goal never seemed likely. It reminded one of the two 1-1 draws the same teams played in the 1977 semi-final group—exce't that it was not rough, baring an early violent foul by Boca's Pernia against Cali's only dangerous attacker, A. Banitez (also an Argentine), for which he should have been sent off.

Both teams were to blame for the poor match leading to the inevitable 0-0 draw. It suited Boca Juniors of course, but Cali were under the obligation to attack, yet they never had a clear midfield strategy, completely lacking in ideas, and their attack was completely inoperative against the experienced Boca defence of Pernia, Sa, Mouzo and Bordón which, except for the latter, had been doing duty in the Libertadores Cup for the last two years. Cali repeatedly fell into the "off side" trap.

On the other hand Boca's usually lethal counter attack was missing even though Cali's weakness in defence invited it, and strangely the Argentine team's main defensive tactic, apart from "off side", was to kick the ball out—the further the better. Cali's defence seemed unable to clear the ball properly, but Boca never took advantage of this fact. Boca also had their problems in this comedy of errors—a nervous reserve goalkeeper (Rodriguez) and poor marking, except in defence.

The result seemed to make Boca Juniors favourites to win the home leg and retain the trophy, but some doubts remained. Cali's 1978 cup record was better away than at home and in the first game they had missed the organising genius of injured Umaña. Also it seemed unlikely that neither Boca or Cali, under Argentine coach Carlos Bilardo and in the final for the first time, could play so badly again.

The second match in Buenos Aires set an absolute gate record for Argentina of 300 million pesos (£166.700) and was watched, during the first half, by Spanish King Juan Carlos, on a state visit here . . . and there was only one team in it.

Expense

Perotti opened the score after 15 minutes for the 1-0 half-time lead while Mastrangelo (60m), Salinas (71) and Perotti again (85) added further goals in the second half, but they could have scored more.

Within two minutes Mouzo came close with a 35 metre shot for Boca and Mastrangelo almost scored before dangerous winger Perotti netted and then almost made it two, at the expense of a corner, a couple of minutes later. Zanabria also lost an excellent chance just before half-time as Cali got all mixed up in the middle against Boca's continual rotation which beat their marking.

Cali had only one shot at goal during the first half—a free kick by Caicedo—and they resorted to some rough play, while Boca had much more of the ball and Suñe marked Cali's danger man Landucci (another Argentine) well.

Cali brought on the not fully fit Umaña for the second half, but it made no difference to the one-way traffic as Cali's defence went to pieces. While Boca increased the score and missed more chances, only Cali's Argentine forward Scotta came close once 10 minutes from the end.

Sa (2) and Mastrangelo (7) of Boca Juniors after their victory in the Libertadores Cup Final.

WOULD YOU BELIEVE IT

- *In Argentina, a group of businessmen calling themselves "Friends of Mario Kempes" offered Spanish First Division club Valencia 3.5 million dollars for Kempes, the Argentine forward who was top scorer in the last World Cup. Their intention was to give the player to Argentine club Boca Juniors whose president, Alberto Armando, is a member of this group and had personally pledged a million dollars towards this sum.*
- *In Brazil, Palmeiras coach Filpo Nuñes, who is Argentine born, has asked the University of Sao Paulo to bestow the title of "Doctor of Football" on him and also to make soccer a university subject with him giving classes.*

Doubts already expressed over Colombia's suitability

WHILE Colombian FA president Alfonso Senior, who was chiefly responsible in getting the 1986 World Cup finals for Colombia, says there is not the slightest doubt that his country will stage the tournament, Colombia's new government, under President Julio Turbay, is not so sure and is currently studying the situation.

Education minister Rodrigo Llorena said recently: "We can not take a hasty decision on the matter, because it is going to cost a lot of money and the benefits are doubtful." He was also worried, like a lot of his countrymen, that the deficit was going to be even bigger if, as seemed likely, Colombia does not get past the first round group.

Colombia has never been a strong soccer country and they have only reached one World Cup final—in 1962, in Chile, when they caused a surprise by holding the Soviet Union 4-4, but were nevertheless eliminated in the first round after losing to Uruguay (2-1) and Yugoslavia (5-1) in the other group games. While Colombian clubs frequently do well in the Libertadores Cup and Deportivo Cali reached the final this year, they, like most other league clubs, are strengthened by foreigners.

Another government official, Mike Forego, a former journalist recently put in charge of the National Institute for Youth and Sport (COLDEPORTES) through which government assistance would be channelled, said: "The World Cup doesn't worry me and the government will not renounce staging the tournament for a simple reason—they did not take it on in the first place and it is up to the Colombian FA." This would indicate that the Colombian FA might be left holding the baby without being able to expect the government aid which made this year's tournament in Argentina such a success.

On the credit side is the fact that Colombia has better communications than Argentina and with still eight years to go, they are likely to be much improved. The hotel capacity is also far bigger than in Argentina and the probable venues outside the capital have bigger populations than those used in Argentina. Stadiums are also likely to require fewer modifications to put them up to standard. Bogotá, Cali, Medellín, Baraquilla and Bucaramanga are the most likely venues, but several other towns with good stadiums have also expressed interest.

It is estimated that the required improvements would cost around six million dollars if they are done next year and around 12.5 million if work does not start until 1982. One of the stadiums needing most work is that at Bogotá and it could even happen that the country's capital would not become the main centre.

Colombian FA officials anxiously await results of the government study, although there is yet a long time to go. It may also be besides the point at this stage to point out that Colombia, like Argentina, has a terrorist problem. Argentina's strongest terrorist group stated a year before the World Cup that they would not harm the event because "it was a feast of the people". The five active guerrilla groups in Colombia have not yet ventured an opinion on the matter.

Tournament

Meanwhile, it is understood that both Brazil and the United States are interested in staging the tournament if Colombia backs out. Brazilian soccer officials however are considering the possibility of making it easier for Colombia—and other small countries in the future—to organise the World Cup by presenting a project to FIFA which would permit several small countries to join in its organisation—in this case neighbouring Peru, Venezuela and Ecuador. Only if Colombia really withdraws would Brazil be interested in taking over, they say.

On the other hand, Argentina, wants to organise another world tournament at the suggestion of national team coach Menotti, in 1980. This will probably be for players up to 21 or 23 with the World Cup finals in Spain in view two years later.

Early in the second half Cali coach Bilardo had replaced defender Ospina as he was playing rough and it was feared that the Colombian team would be left with 10 men, but just before the end his replacement, Castro fouled J. Benitez and was sent off, while Benitez had to be stretchered off. Cali, starting out with defensive tactics, tried to attack more after the first goal, but never found a way. Boca Juniors, never playing full out or well, gained an easy win.

After the match it was the winners' coach, Juan Carlos Lorenzo, who was repeatedly being chaired around the ground among joyous scenes reminiscent of the recent World Cup celebrations here, Lorenzo had said before the final matches that he would be leaving the club at the end of the season as he felt he had "completed his cycle". He did not want to finish on the heap, he said, like other coaches who, after gaining success with their club, saw it plunge into the doldrums before leaving in disgrace. At press time, however, Lorenzo seemed to have changed his mind in spite of reportedly receiving big offers from Cali's other club, America, and the New York Cosmos.

Everybody seems to be receiving offers from the New York Cosmos these days. . . . It increases their bargaining power and market value right away.

Former champions

1960/1 Peñarol (Urug); 1962/3 Santos (Braz); 1964/5 Independiente (Arg); 1966 Peñarol (Urug); 1967 Racing (Arg); 1968/9/70 Estudiantes de La Plata (Arg); 1971 Nacional (Urug); 1972/3/4/5 Independiente (Arg); 1976 Cruzeiro (Braz); 1977 Boca Juniors (Arg).

Won most (including 1978) by Argentina 12, Uruguay 4; Club: Independiente (Arg) 6, Peñarol (Urug) and Estudiantes de LP (Arg) 3.

Chatty Tarantini

IF BIRMINGHAM City could pick up points as quickly as Alberto Tarantini is picking up English they would have little to worry about.

I met Tarantini in his new surroundings of St Andrew's after he had scored his first goal in England, in the 1-1 First Division draw with Bristol City.

The goal was a carbon copy of his effort in the catch-us-if-you-can World Cup-tie against Peru. The only difference was that on that occasion the corner was delivered by Daniel Bertoni, this time from Steve Fox, so that Tarantini could head in.

Tarantini was playing his seventh game for Birmingham, and doing so at right back. He looked rusty and Bristol's players were not too impressed, criticising him for lack of ability in the tackle, for ball-watching and for leaving too many gaps at the back.

Birmingham manager Jim Smith thinks Tarantini will be more use in the long run in midfield; Tarantini prefers to play attacking right back. And the player may well be right. He should know his own style best. The trouble is that Birmingham, having spent £250,000, would feel they could get greater money's worth with Tarantini consistently involved in the game in the centre of the park.

Further, as Ricardo Villa has discovered at Tottenham where he has become the regular £375,000 substitute, the tactical roles adopted in Argentina are very different to those in England. While Tarantini is adjusting, midfield may well be the safest place.

To be fair, even he was not deceived by his goal into believing all his troubles were over. He said he would need at least two more games to reach anything near his best.

But if he's ring rusty it's hardly surprising. After all, in the 18 months before he signed for Birmingham he played *only 14 league games* in Argentina.

The reasons?—Argentina's international commitments; Boca's gentle habit of resting their players either side of a Libertadores tie; injuries; a suspension; his departure from Boca a year ago; his nomadic wandering since the World Cup Final.

I liked Tarantini's comment, incidentally, after Birmingham's game with Manchester United when Brian Greenhoff had to be carried off unconscious. Rumours linked Tarantini with Greenhoff's felling.

Tarantini would only say: "Perhaps he was tired."

I think Tarantini will gain more fun out of English football than Manchester City's Kazimierz Deyna. The former Poland captain looked totally lost during his debut in the 2-1 defeat by Ipswich.

Some 103 caps for Poland don't add up to the extra lung Deyna, at 31, may find he should have brought with him from Legia Warsaw.

SPAIN

by Keir Radnedge

VALENCIA UPSET BY BONHOF. . .

TROUBLE for Rainer Bonhof at Valencia, as the Ches—despite their heavy spending and World Cup heroes—continue to stagger along.

The West German who has yet to establish a fixed role at Valencia, upset coach Marcel Domingo and several team-mates with an interview in a West German paper when he returned home for the international against Hungary.

Bonhof was reported as saying that Valencia didn't train hard enough, that the players handed round a brandy bottle before a game, and that Mario Kempes was at his most effective not in the penalty box but in talking terms.

On his return Bonhof was asked to explain, and excused himself on the grounds that his words were really to the effect that training in Spain was *different*, that the players liked a drink but *weren't drunkards*, and that Kempes was a good businessman, which was only *natural* in his circumstances.

Kempes, incidentally, has just been chosen footballer of the year by the Spanish sportswriters, a pretty obvious award which most people assume will be duplicated when *France Football* hold their European footballer of the year poll shortly.

The Argentinian is having trouble finding the net however, and his chances of topping the scoring lists for a third successive season are virtually dead and buried. When he scored Valencia's first in the 2-1 win over Espanol it was only his third in the league this season. That same weekend Barcelona's Hans Krankl hit a hat-trick against Celta de Vigo to take his total to 10.

That game was a sad return to Barcelona for Laureano Ruiz, for years on the CFB coaching staff. His experience since stepping out into the open with Celta hasn't been very happy. They are bottom of the first division with five points from 12 games, already three points adrift from Hercules.

Ruiz may soon be wishing he'd stayed at Nou Camp!

Another former Barcelona man back in the news is Luis Suarez, Spain's greatest-ever inside forward, has at last accepted an offer to come home, and take over his original home-town team, La Coruna, in the second division.

This is Suarez's first Spanish club as manager since, after being sold by Barcelona to Internazionale in 1961, he stayed in Italy when his playing career ended, even managing Inter for a brief season without much success.

Suarez has a job on, for Coruna are 16th in the 20-club second division. Surprise leaders and going hell for leather for promotion are the Madrid club Castilla, whose elevation at the end of the season might embarrass Real Madrid.

Castilla are Madrid's affiliated minor club, the side to which many of Madrid's brightest youngsters are lent so they can glean league experience. Formerly named Plus Ultra, what will happen if they finish top? They cannot go up because they are an affiliated team.

Castilla's key forward is centre forward Santiago Pozo, who tops the second division scorers with 11 goals.

Madrid, meanwhile, lead the first division, with 18 points from 12 games, three clear of Bilbao and—despite their internal troubles—Atletico Madrid.

The Madrid derby was an infernal affair in Atletico's Manzanares. Inside four minutes Real were ahead when Juanito took a pass from fit-again Uli Stielike and jinked past Marcelino to score. In the 22nd minute Pirri pulled down Ruben Cano but though Miguel Angel stopped Ruben Ayala's penalty, the goalkeeper was beaten three minutes later when Joao Leivina headed in a Eugenio Leal corner.

With five players booked in the meantime by busy referee Garcia Carrion, Real went back ahead through Santillana in the 78th minute after a brilliant run by Stielike. It looked all over for 'Atleti' but in the last minute Rubio was tripped by Sol, and though Miguel Angel blocked Rubio's own penalty, Luis Pereira followed up to score.

Action from a Spanish league match between Real Madrid (in white) and Atletico Madrid.

Cano scores for Atletico Madrid against Valencia.

Sent off

Real protested that Pereira had already been inside the box when Rubio took the kick, and Cano was sent off for sticking an elbow in Juanito's face in the melee that followed!

Atletico certainly did their neighbours a favour the following week, however, by winning 4-2 away to Barcelona! Under Ferenc Szusza, lately returned from Hungary, Atletico have discovered a team unit and spirit which had been lacking for a long time.

While the league battle was continuing there wasn't such good news from the European scene. The national team did well to win away to Yugoslavia and home to Rumania, as did Barcelona to recover from a 3-0 first leg defeat away to Cup-winners' Cup holders Anderlecht. But Madrid's shabby elimination by Grasshoppers in the Champions' Cup with the Juanito incident tarnishing their reputation and robbing them of his talents in Europe for two years, was very bad news.

In the UEFA Cup Gijon went out in the second round to Red Star Belgrade and Bilbao in the first to Ajax. Valencia continued to the third round, then came up against England's lively West Bromwich. As I write they are flying north for the second leg, but it doesn't look bright after the 1-1 first leg draw.

That would leave only Barcelona representing Spain at the quarter final draws in January.

Real Madrid versus Atletico Madrid at the Vicente Calderon Stadium. Real Madrid are in white and the match ended 2-2.

AT ONE time there seemed no reason why Jose Martinez Sanchez, better known as Pirri, shouldn't make the Spanish international appearance record all his own.

The target stood at 46, the total of pre-war goalkeeper Ricardo Zamora. Yet Pirri, the Real Madrid midfielder-turned-sweeper, has told Spain boss Ladislao Kubala he no longer wants to play for the national team.

His total of caps?—Just 41, eight behind the present record held by Bilbao goalkeeper Jose Angel Iribar.

True, Pirri is 34 in March, but with his experience there's much he could still contribute. Injuries had held back his national team career before now but he could still be there . . . had it not been for the bitter events of the World Cup—as Pirri has now explained.

"My aim was to set the record, to beat Iribar's total. I would have been almost there I thought, after the World Cup. Everyone said so. But I had to miss the warm-up game we played against Uruguay because I was ill and also the Brazil World Cup-tie because I was dropped . . ."

Did you deserve to be dropped?

"I was happy with the way I'd played against Austria in the first match of our group. Our 2-1 defeat really upset me. Now I've looked at the video of the game again and again and each time I'm convinced I played well. But I lost one ball—and Austria scored. I don't know . . . perhaps we had a lack of understanding. When I went forward so did De la Cruz and we didn't have any cover at the back. I was the one who got all the blame."

You had some bitter things to say afterwards?

"Not true. Obviously I was upset to miss the Brazil game—no footballer worth his salt wouldn't be upset. You know, a month before the World Cup, Kubala told me I might not play against Brazil.

"It went out of my head then. When we played Hungary Kubala said I wasn't to worry if Alesanco came on as substitute for me because he had to give the younger players a trial. So after our game with Switzerland I said to Kubala and Porta (the FEF president) that if they didn't want me for the World Cup, if they wanted younger players, then that was all right.

Surprised

"Do you know what they told me?—That I was irreplaceable. That's why I was surprised when events turned out the way they did. And I was upset when Kubala didn't say anything to me when he dropped me. I didn't want a lengthy explanation, he's the boss and he doesn't need to do that. But if he'd just said something, anything . . ."

What about the critical report you have written about Spain's World Cup?

"It certainly exists. I started writing it the first day of our World Cup preparations in Madrid. When we returned home from Argentina I gave it to Raimundo Saporta (then Real Madrid acting president, now Spain's World Cup organising supremo) because I didn't think that was the right moment to make it public."

But everyone expected you to publish it?

"No, that was confusion. I said I would speak out when I returned to Spain but only to answer Kubala who had said I was too old. Didn't he know I was 33 when he picked me to go to Argentina?"

Should Spain pick a young team for the 1982 finals?

"The young players must be given their chance, of course, but the 32 and 33-year-olds shouldn't be forgotten. The national selection is a serious business, it's not a kids' team. You have to pick the players who are at their best."

Of your 41 internationals, which do you remember the best?

"Our first game in the World Cup in 1966, in Birmingham, when I scored our goal against Argentina."

And your worst moments?

"No doubt, Argentina 1978. Look—I've always said that the worst things in football are injuries. But in this case I've found that worse things can happen, and they happened to me, in Argentina. Then, I knew I'd had enough."

Pirri, who made his international debut against Argentina and wound up his international career in Argentina, was on the winning side in 22 of his 41 games, with nine draws and 10 defeats. His 16 goals make him the fifth-ranked scorer in Spain's history.

DYNAMO TBILISI ARE CHAMPIONS

USSR

by Terry Bushell

THE Soviet 1978 season ended with Dynamo Tbilisi coasting to the championship with a game in hand, last season's champions Dynamo Kiev putting in a late burst to finish second and everyone agreeing that this season was better than the last.

Tbilisi were undoubtedly the best team in the League, remaining at the top from the first game onwards without one slip, their attacking style fully suiting the talents and temperament of their extrovert Georgian players and fans. This style also took by surprise some of their opponents in a league notorious for its cautious, defensive play.

Unfashionable Donetsk Shakhtyor provided interest by being in a position for most of the season to land the double, in the end finishing third in the League and losing the Cup Final to Kiev 2-1 after extra time, having been leading 1-0 at half time. Blokhin scored both Kiev goals in a slow game.

Eligible

More goals were scored this year than last and there were fewer draws, due in part to a new rule limiting the number of draws eligible for a point. After eight draws a team got no points for a draw. The rule was passed because in the 1977 season nearly half the games in the championship ended in a draw, some of them genuine, some of them "draws of convenience" in which the opponents struck a truce beforehand if a draw suited them both.

It was known that there would be some injustices in the measure — and so it turned out. Moscow Torpedo and Chernomorets for example fought out a very interesting and dramatic game, ending in an exciting 2-2 draw — and neither got a point for it. And then Moscow Dynamo, who finished fourth, got nothing for a draw with Ararat Yerevan at a time when a point was worth a medal to them. But still, it was agreed that the new regulation, for all its unfortunate side effects, was for the better. The figure of eight was chosen because this was worked out to be the average in European football, taking into account the number of teams in each league and the subsequent number of matches.

But behind this relative satisfaction with the League runs a deeper dissatisfaction with Soviet football in general as represented by performances in the international arena.

The national team, in a weak division of the European championship (they are in with Greece, Hungary and Finland) is playing poorly. The national team has come in for severe criticism for its lack of fighting spirit, especially in away matches, and its lack of co-ordination and initiative in attack.

Symptoms

The same symptoms are found in the club sides in European competition every time they face opponents of any quality above mediocrity.

Donetsk Shakhtyor, the sensation of the Soviet season, were not in the same class as Barcelona in the Cup-Winners' Cup, going out in the first round on a 4-1 aggregate. All other Soviet clubs in European competition went out in the next round, Kiev to Malmoe of Sweden in the European Cup, while in the UEFA Cup Moscow Torpedo went out to VfB Stuttgart and Tbilisi to West Berlin's Hertha.

It was noticeable that away from home they all showed no spirit at all, with Kiev, the Soviet wonder team of recent years, looking particularly lost and disorganised at Malmoe.

Spirit

And it has been like this for the last three years. Soviet teams have been knocked out not so much because of lack of skill (though it must be said there does seem to be a dearth of it) but because of lack of will to win, of character, fighting spirit. Lack of skill can be compensated for to some extent by correct tactics but there does not seem to be the right conditions here for the instilling of a fighting spirit.

But there is no reason to be fatalistic. Dynamo Moscow got to the Cup-Winners' Cup Final in 1972 and three years later Kiev won it. But generally it is accepted the top teams are not good enough.

I do not remember when it was that the group of teams fighting for the title of the country's champions got the flattering and magnetic name of "Supreme League" with Division Two being called the First Division. But the name pleased everyone. It certified officially that all the teams, and therefore the organisations and towns they represent, have attained the highest standards and hence it is a great achievement simply to be one of them.

And this so-called "Supreme League" is being enlarged next season, from 16 to 18 teams. Three sides have been promoted from the "First Division" therefore with only one suffering relegation.

Champions

The three to come up are the Kuibyshev airforce team, which is quaintly named Wings of the Soviets, the army club from Rostov-on-Don and Dynamo Minsk. The unlucky side to be relegated are Dneprepetrovsk Dniepr, who got only 21 points from 30 matches.

Top scorer of the season was Moscow Spartak's Georgi Yartsev, with 19 goals.

The new champions from Georgia have won the title only once before, in 1964. Although prominent in the "Supreme League" for many years, it was only in 1976, when Nodar Akhalkatsi, 40, became manager, that they began to show really stable results. That year they came third in the League and won the Cup. The following year they were second to Kiev.

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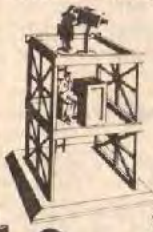

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Club Focus

ANDERLEC WHERE

WHERE now for Anderlecht, knocked out of the Cup-winners' Cup they have dominated for the past three years?

The obvious response is that they should win the league and return to Europe via the Champions' Cup. But since their stormy defeat by Barcelona in the Cup-winners' second round, the Belgians have lost their way.

November was indeed a chilly month for the club who, founded on August 27, 1908, celebrate their 70th anniversary this season.

First came the visit to Barcelona. Anderlecht had won a vicious first leg 3-0 at home, despite the expulsion of Danish forward Benny Nielsen. Both teams finished black and blue and Anderlecht coach Raymond Goethals warned: "If they want a war, they can have it."

But in the return, while Anderlecht went out looking for trouble, Barcelona came out far too concerned about pulling back the deficit to become involved in a temperamental battle. Anderlecht defender Hugo Broos was sent off and Barcelona not only pulled back the three goals, but won the eventual penalty contest 4-1.

Cup victors

Anderlecht, Cup-winners' Cup victors in 1976 (4-2 v West Ham), runners-up in 1977 (0-2 v Hamburg) and winners again in 1978 (4-0 v FK Austria), were out.

That was on November 1. On November 5 they were held 1-1 at home by newly-promoted Watershei and a week later slumped 3-0 to out-of-form Brugge. That defeat, for which Anderlecht were without the injured Thissen, Nielsen and Rensenbrink, pushed them from the top place in the league and despite a successive 7-0 win over La Louviere, a 1-0 defeat in Antwerp at the end of the month sent them slipping to fourth, two points behind new leaders Beveren.

Clearly, not a major gap which Anderlecht are incapable of making up, but hardly good news for manager Raymond Goethals.

At the after-match Press conference which followed the 4-0 Cup-winners' Cup success against FK Austria, Goethals had been reproached by some of the Belgian journalists for the fact that Anderlecht had cruised successfully in the second European competition while Brugge dominated on the domestic front.

Goethals defended himself as briskly and self-confidently as ever, but it was significant that at the start of this season both he and the players said that their main objective was to regain the league title they last won in 1974.

Anderlecht are Belgium's greatest club. They have won the league a record 16 times and the cup a record five times—successes all claimed since the war. They are the only Belgian club to have won a European title, and apart from their three Cup-winners' finals they were also Fairs' Cup runners-up to Arsenal in 1970, going down narrowly 4-3 on aggregate.

The biggest guiding influence in recent years has been president Constant Vanden Stock. Born in 1914 he also runs a major brewery whose Belle Vue products are the sponsorship brand emblazoned across Anderlecht's jerseys in league games. Born in the Anderlecht suburb of Brussees he played for the club's reserve teams as a youth, and was still active when the second world war began.

After the war his business claimed all his time and it wasn't until 1958 that he finally joined the Anderlecht board. Quickly he made his presence felt in the corridors of power and for 10 years was technical director of the national team.

It was during this spell, which included Belgium's qualification for the 1970 World Cup Finals in Mexico, that Vanden Stock first worked with Goethals.

After one year on the board of Brugge, Vanden Stock became Anderlecht president in 1971, linking up again with Goethals after the national team boss stepped down after a 10-year stint in 1976. And it has been during Vanden Stock's reign that Anderlecht have concentrated so heavily on poaching some of the best talent from across the border in Holland. And this for a club who were once highly suspicious of any foreigners!

Yet it was with an Englishman, former Manchester City goalkeeper Bill Gormlie, that their rise began. He was manager immediately after the war, when Anderlecht won four of the first six post-war league titles.

The public's hero was the powerful centre-forward Jef Mermans. He scored 212 goals in his career before retiring in 1957, while his 37 goals in 1949-50 still stands as a Belgian record.

In the mid-1950s came the Champions' Cup and Anderlecht's early experience was dismal. Belgian players were then mostly amateur, and Anderlecht crashed 10-0 at Old Trafford to the pre-Munich Manchester United. On the left wing that day was a man who would survive to become a key member when Anderlecht finally found their European feet—Jef Jurion.

One of the few outstanding players to have worn spectacles on the pitch, Jurion switched to become the midfield general when Frenchman Pierre Sinibaldi, the former Reims international, took over in 1960-1. He built a team laced with a sweet balance of youth and experience, basing their game on a four-in-line offside trap run by Georges Heylans, Laurent Verbiest, Martin Lippens and Jean Cornelis. The tactic remained long after Sinibaldi had gone, after Verbiest had been sadly killed in a car crash, after Lippens lost his place to Jean Plaskie because of injury.

Its greatest success was in the Champions' Cup first round in 1962-63. Facing Real Madrid, runners-up a couple of months before, they drew 3-3 in Spain and won 1-0 at home.

Reputation

Jef Jurion was a hero that night, for he rattled home the only goal five minutes from time, but his reputation has since been tarnished with a sine die ban a couple of years back after a bribery scandal when he had turned unsuccessfully to management.

Anderlecht's greatest fortune of those years was the explosion of Belgium's greatest-ever footballer, Paul Van Himst. Fair-haired, powerful yet skilful, Van Himst started at centre-forward but later switched to inside-left where he found more freedom to wander at will between midfield and attack and create still more havoc.

Belgium's most-capped international, with 81 appearances, he was three times footballer of the year and three times also the league's top scorer. But he wasn't averse to clashes with those in authority. At the Common Market match at Wembley in 1973 he refused to go on as a second-half substitute in the "Six" team because he resented the influence of the West German trio of Helmut Schoen, Franz Beckenbauer and Günter Netzer.

by Keir Radnedge

Club Focus

CHT — NOW?

In Belgium he refused to play for the national team in 1967 and 1968, and also following hefty criticism after Belgium's first round World Cup elimination in the 1970 finals. Vanden Stock persuaded Van Himst to change his mind and it was in captaining Belgium to third place in the 1972 European championship that Van Himst overtook Vicky Mees's previous record with 69 caps.

Sadly he left Anderlecht under a cloud in 1975, after a jubilee match against a World XI, and spent one injury-wrecked season with Brussels rivals RWDM before retiring.

It's ironic that it was only after Van Himst, their greatest star, left that Anderlecht achieved the European status they had long threatened to gain. Foreign imports had much to do with it. In the early 1960s there was goalkeeper Arpad Fazekas from Hungary, utility defender Julien Kialunda (Congolese), Swedish forwards Inge Ejderstedt and Thomas Nordahl and Dutch internationals Gerard Bergholz and Jan Mulder.

It's the Dutch era now, but it's a singular fact that in the midst of all these coming and goings, in 1964, no fewer than 10 Anderlecht players lined up against Holland. And when goalkeeper Jean Trappeniers appeared as a substitute after half-time the number went to all 11—a record. Belgium, incidentally, drew 1-1.

Stepping down

Anderlecht have also employed foreign trainers regularly. Georg Kessler, the West German now with Alkmaar, was one; Hans Croon, a Dutchman, another. Croon was in charge for the 1976 Cup-winners' Cup success before stepping down neatly in time for Goethals.

Now Goethals faces his big test as club manager. He arrived when Anderlecht were on the crest of a wave. Can he now swing them back up? Lucien Muller, Barcelona's coach, has no doubt about Anderlecht's class and especially appreciated their ability to pace a game to their will —now speeding up, now slowing it down.

And while they may be a little slow in defence, Ruud Geels's arrival in attack has brought the sort of strength the clever Englishman, Duncan McKenzie, could never provide.

"Geels has solved our greatest problem," says Goethals, "he can score goals even when we are playing badly."

The way results have gone recently for Anderlecht, Geels now has an ideal chance to prove the point!

Jean Thissen of Anderlecht.

THE PLAYERS

NICO DE BREE. Goalkeeper. Aged 34. Dutch military international. A surprise choice in Holland's World Cup 40, though he didn't make the final 22. Born at Zuilen, he made his league debut with Utrecht before moving to NEC Nijmegen where he was spotted by Felix Week, the ex-Anderlecht goalkeeper who was at the time coach to Racing White of Brussels. They signed De Bree and he was the No 1 in the championship team of 1975, by which time Racing White had become RWD Molenbeek. Anderlecht signed him in the summer of 1977 in exchange for another Dutch goalkeeper, Jan Ruiter, whom they wanted to replace after disciplinary trouble.

JACQUES MUNARON. Aged 22. Has threatened this season to take over as No 1 after three years as reserve. Looked as if he'd made it when Goethals chose him for the pre-season friendly against France, but after the 1-0 defeat he was back on the bench.

GILBERT VAN BINST. Right back, though he has played centre-forward too. Aged 27. Has played 18 times for Belgium. Scored two marvellous goals from right back in the 4-0 win over FK Austria in the 1978 CWC final. Was club captain for a spell but has been unsettled recently after losing his place not only in the national team but with Anderlecht.

HUGO BROOS. Stopper. Aged 23, with 15 caps for Belgium. Experienced utility defender who was sent off in the 75th minute of the second leg with Barcelona.

"JOHNNY" DUSBABA. Sweeper. Aged 22. Nine caps for Holland. Was in the Dutch World Cup 40. Knownas "Johnny" though his first name in fact is Karel. Joined Anderlecht for £175,000 from Ajax Amsterdam in the summer of 1977.

JEAN THISSEN. Left back. Aged 32. Has won 34 caps for Belgium. Long-serving full back who is the only member of Belgium's 1970 World Cup finals team still in top-class soccer.

FRANCOIS VAN DER ELST. Utility. Aged 24, has won 16 caps for Belgium, in every sector except goal. A youth product, he made his debut six years ago as a right winger, though he began at centre forward. Since then he has played in midfield and has been frequently preferred to Van Binst at right back this season. West Ham will remember him better as a swift and deadly striker, for he scored twice against them in the 1976 CWC final. Van der Elst is so devoted to Anderlecht he even has his house painted mauve and white.

LUDO COECK. Midfield,. 23 years old, has won 16 caps for Belgium. The tallest man in the squad at 6ft 3in, he is also very nimble though a knee operation —ironically in Barcelona — during the summer has upset his form. Goethals, while national team boss, experimented with Coeck as Belgium's sweeper because of his excellent reading of a game, but he's found his niche in midfield. Dynamic long-range shot.

RONNY VAN POUCKE. Midfield. Aged 21. Had been expected to force himself into the first team pretty quickly but Anderlecht are still waiting, though he has proved a remarkable shot.

FRANKIE VERCAUTEREN. Midfield. Aged 22. Has won four caps for Belgium and become a national squad regular though it was only last season that he became a first choice with Anderlecht. Chunky, aggressive and hard-working; the ideal foil for some of his more skilful and thoughtful colleagues.

AREND "ARIE" HAAN. Midfield. Aged 30. He won 34 caps for Holland. Tall, strong, skilful with a ferocious shot. Haan first earned his fame with Ajax Amsterdam's triple European champions. Played as substitute in the 2-0 win over Panathinaikos in 1971 and was soon after a fixed member of the team in midfield alongside Johan Neeskens and Gerrit Muhren. Played in the 1972 and 1973 Champions' Cup finals but was switched to sweeper for the 1974 World Cup by Rinus Michels, and played in all seven games up to and including the final 2-1 defeat by West Germany. A year later Anderlecht signed him for £185,000 a transfer which was the unfortunate spur to Van Himmst's departure. Haan has more than repaid the investment by becoming the key man in midfield. Played in all but one of Holland's World Cup games in Argentina and earned a deserved reputation for hard shooting after the screaming shots which beat first Sepp Maier then Dino Zoff. His chances of more caps have been compromising however by his recent withdrawal from the Dutch squad in protest at the number of spying missions sent from Zeist to watch him. "If they don't know whether I'm good enough now, they never will," he complained.

BENNY NIELSEN. Attack or midfield. Aged 27, with 19 caps for Denmark. Began with Akademisk of Copenhagen, with whom he played centre-forward and joined Cercle Bruges in 1970. In the late spring of 1974 he laid on three goals in five minutes to ruin the league title chances of RWD Molenbeek, who were sufficiently impressed to sign him in the summer. RWD converted him into a midfielder and he generalled the team who won the league in 1975 before signing for Anderlecht 18 months ago and moving back into attack. Sent off for retaliation in the first leg against Barcelona. England found him a lively character in the recent European championship tie.

JEAN-CLAUDE BOUVY. Attack. Aged 19.

RONNY MARTENS. Attack or midfield. Aged 20 on December 20.

MARTY VAN TOORN. Attack or midfield. Aged 23. Yet another Dutchman.

PIETER ROBERT RENSENBRINK. Striker. Aged 31. Has won 47 caps for Holland and is known of course by his second name, Robert or Rob. Captain and superstar of Anderlecht, whom he joined nearly seven years ago from Brugge in part exchange for veteran Wilfried Puis. May well go down in history as the unluckiest World Cup Finalist. In the 1974 final a thigh strain forced him out at half-time and in Buenos Aires this year it was his shot which struck the post in the dying minutes of regular time with the score 1-1. Not surprisingly after the high tension and big let-down of the World Cup, Resenbrink's form has been patchy this season. A fishing enthusiast when not playing football, he was born at Oostzaan near Amsterdam and played for OSV, a local amateur club before turning pro with the now defunct DWS Amsterdam. In 1969 he switched to Brugge. Resenbrink, who made his international debut in a 0-0 draw with Scotland in Amsterdam in May, 1968, has set his retirement for the end of season 1980-81.

RUUD GEELS. Striker. Aged 30, with nine caps for Holland. Born at Velsen, he joined Anderlecht for £200,000 from Ajax this past summer after four years as Holland's top scorer. Before that Geels was one of soccer's nomads. Starting with DSS en Onze Gezellen of Haarlem, he moved to Telstar (Ijmuiden) and then Feyenoord. The Rotterdam club had just won the 1970 Champions' Cup but Geels received little opportunity to help them try to keep it — which theey failed to do. Go Ahead Eagles of Deventer was his next stop, then Brugge. Ajax took him home to Holland to fill the gap left by Johan Cruyff, though there is no comparison between their styles. Geels is no sharp, peripatetic all-rounder, rather a goal-hungry spearhead, effective with both feet and head. He scored 125 goals in 136 games with Ajax, including five in a 6-0 win over Feyenoord, his old club. With Anderlecht Geels scored 13 goals in his first nine games.

Manchester City break new ground with Deyna

by
Derick Allsop

MANCHESTER CITY broke new ground in transfers when they signed Poland's Kazimierz Deyna.

As English clubs spread the net for quality City's move for one of the greatest players ever produced behind the Iron Curtain was arguably the most adventurous of all.

The deal took weeks of tedious negotiations between City and the Army club, Legia Warsaw, and was threatened at several stages along the way.

City made their first tentative approach when they learned that Polish players over the age of 30 could become available to foreign buyers.

Chairman Peter Swales was encouraged enough to fly to Warsaw for further talks, but there he met a few stumbling blocks.

Nowhere

He says: "I sat there for three hours facing three Army colonels and getting nowhere. They didn't want to let us even meet Deyna. I said we were wasting our time, but then the mood changed."

Swales eventually saw Deyna, who was interested in the move. The ice had been broken, but red tape still hung before City.

The deal had to be approved by the Polish Government, and in England there was a block on work permits following objections against non-EEC imports from the Professional Footballers' Association.

City's patience and enterprise was rewarded, however, when clearance was given by both countries and on November 7 Deyna, and his wife Mariola, flew into Manchester.

Decade

Two days later City signed Poland's 31-year-old World Cup captain, a man with 102 caps and one of Europe's outstanding midfield talents of the last decade, for a fee of less than £100,000.

City manager, Tony Book, after meeting Deyna for the first time, said: "He's alert and lively: fit as a butcher's dog! He's a great player, somebody who will put his foot on the ball and give us a little time when we need it."

Deyna, content with the move, flew back to Warsaw to play his last match for Legia and complete the formalities of the transfer.

Deyna was born on October 23, 1947, in Starograd Gdanski, Eastern Pomerania. When he was 18 he joined LKS Lodz and played just one match for them. The evidence of that 90 minutes was enough to convince Legia he had rare potential and he was taken to Warsaw.

At that time Legia were threatened with relegation, but in Deyna's second full season they won the championship. They won the title again in 1970 and the Cup in 1973.

But it was in international football that Deyna made his reputation as Poland's finest player. He made his debut for his country in 1968, scoring once in the 8-0 romp against Turkey at Chorzow Stadium.

He won Olympic gold and silver medals and guided Poland's exciting 1974 side to third place in the West Germany World Cup finals.

"So far as results are concerned, that was probably the best Polish team there has ever been," he says. "However, 10 or 15 years earlier I believe Poland had several players who, individually, were technically superior to the 1974 squad.

"They were not so effective collectively, but possessed perfection in ball control, reading of the game and understanding of each others' play. Somehow they did not blend as a team should."

Deyna reached his century of internationals in this year's World Cup finals, but for player and country the big night became a sad anti-climax.

The match was against Argentina in Rosario and a goal by Kempes gave the host country the lead. Late in the first half the same player handled on the line to deprive the Poles of an equaliser and Deyna stepped up to take the penalty.

He had never missed in 11 penalty attempts for his country, but this time he shot tamely and Fillol saved.

A second goal by Kempes clinched the match for Argentina and put them on the way to winning the trophy. Poland were put out of contention and Deyna, for ten years the hero, became the fans' scapegoat.

"It was the worst moment of my life. I wanted everything to be perfect, but the pressure proved too much for me, even with all my experience.

"Had it been an ordinary game, my 99th or 101st game I'm sure I would have scored that penalty. Ten years with the Polish team and I had never missed a penalty.

Retire

"I had already decided to retire from international football after Argentina and when I returned home I was even more determined to do so.

"The fans turned on me, writing abusive letters, making insulting telephone calls and scrawling things outside our apartment. I missed an important penalty, but I didn't deserve that.

"That is why I have become disillusioned with the supporters at home. It was most unpleasant and hurt me considerably."

So now the Deynas, who have a five-year-old son called Norbert, are embarking on a new life in Manchester. How much does he feel he can give City?

"I believe I have three or four more good years left and I hope I can use those years to help Manchester City achieve success.

"Of course there will be some problems. I can't expect to settle in and be my best instantly. But I am confident things will go well and I'm looking forward to playing English football."

FRANCE

by Andre Duclos

Action from the first leg UEFA Cup match between Duisbourg and Strasbourg which ended 0-0. Leonard Specht of Strasbourg is on the right.

THAT 1–0 win over Spain was an encouraging straw in the wind, even if the Spanish Press took such a different attitude from our own, castigating as a wretched performance by their team what we in our innocence thought was rather a good one.

Juanito, shortly to be suspended by UEFA for two years, turned Janvion inside out, otherwise the French back four stood up well to the visiting attack, while the midfield, though without Platini and Bathenay, was well up to snuff. Not so the attack, which was largely dominated by the Spanish defenders, the only goal being headed by a French defender in Specht, beating the lanky Spanish striker Santillana to the cross. The Spanish Press thought Miguel Angel should have had that ball.

Almost as encouraging was the extremely lively, talented display of the French youth team in the Monaco tournament, even though they tossed away a two goal lead against Yugoslavia in the Final, to lose 3-2. Particularly pleasing was the choice of the Nice striker and French top scorer, Buscher, as best player of the competition by the panel of eight managers.

To be honest, it was time that France came good in this tournament, after thoroughly disappointing performances the previous two years. Strange how the crop of youngsters shows such variations year by year, when a year in football or a footballer's life is of so relatively little importance. Buscher, who will surely get a great many League goals for Nice, and the Nantes attacker, Toure, were the two players who most took the eye in a French team which owed much to individual virtuosity.

A third forward, Stopyra, who bears a name once famous in football, was most impressive, as were Heyman, the centre-back from Angers. Bad luck on Louis Marcialis of Bastia who was going so well when injured playing against Poland. The Poles and Russians were both beaten by this good young French team.

By the time France are due to play their return European Championship game versus Luxemburg next February, Michel Hidalgo, the team manager, says he hopes he will be able to recall Marius Tresor, Michel Platini, Bernard Lacombe and Dominique Bathenay, of his 1978 World Cup team. Platini's case is a confusing one. Conflicting statements about his eventual move to Inter of Milan keep appearing.

Hardly has he been quoted as saying that he feels the need of the Italian challenge, that he wants to spend three years away from French football, that his Italian ancestry itself moves him to play in Italy, than another statement denies it all, and adds that Inter would in any case be foolish to sign a player who has been so badly injured. You pay your money and you take your choice.

No wonder Michel Hidalgo says he is counting on the winter break to bring some of his players back to form. To many of us it seemed sheer madness to start the Championship in July, when the International squad was barely back from Argentina. "I take the example of Michel Bossi," says Hidalgo, "who experienced a severe loss of form and is very tired. After the World Cup he had no rest and he has been dropped from the international team only because of this." The great test, as Hidalgo himself says, will come in Prague on April 4 when the powerful Czech team must be faced.

All things considered, France did well to beat Spain, and it's no wonder that Hidalgo was quite satisfied, bringing in as he did a new striker in Pleimelding, who has been doing so well this season for Lille. Specht's goal put icing on the cake of his performance. In any case, he has been in dominant form all season for Strasbourg; for whom he has also been scoring goals from time to time.

Dominique Rocheteau played sixty three minutes against Spain,

France on their way to a 1-0 win over Spain, which was well received.

Platini transfer doubt

then was badly tackled from behind playing against Marseilles for Saint Etienne. He fell heavily on his shoulder, damaged it, was put out of the game for three weeks. In goal, Platini is very pleased with Dominique Dropsy who, he says, gets more confident with every game. Specht pleased him enormously against Spain; as he remarked, there are very few players emerging in his position, apart from Zambelli, of Nice.

Of the younger strikers, he is looking to Flores, Zenier and Tusseau. Among the Rocheteaus, Berdolls and Lacombes, he says, it is largely a question of who is in form at any given moment.

More ups and downs, meanwhile, at Paris Saint Germain, that young but perpetually tormented club more turmoil. A 2-1 win at home, however fortunate, against Strasbourg before a crowd of well over 40,000 was some consolation for all the recent trials and tribulations. It will be remembered that Jean-Michel Larqué, player manager for a while till he decided only to play, was succeeded by his assistant coach, Pierre Alonso. But Alonso didn't last very long before he in turn gave way to the former manager of the club Velibor Vaskovic, once a determined Yugoslav international stopper with Partizan and with Ajax.

The club decided to recall Vaskovic after thinking about a long string of famous managers, among them the former French international Lucien Muller, for long in Spain, now at Barcelona, and another Yugoslav in Miljan Miljanic. They decided in Miljanic's case that his lack of French and his modest success with Real did not make him the man they needed.

There has of course been further anxiety for Paris Saint Germain this season in the shape of the rise of Paris FC, now in the First Division, and more benignly regarded by the Paris municipality, who are wary of Paris S-G's past financial troubles and controversies. The President, now Francis Borelli, says he has always been an admirer of Larqué—as a player—and that it was "sacrilege" to replace Vaskovic with him, as manager.

That was when Botelli was merely on the board, and the stormy Daniel Hechter was running things. Into the ground, say some. Borelli points out that for one reason and another, the five players acquired by his club during the close season, Dominique Bathenay among them, cost practically nothing. That the crowds are now abundantly there when a Parisian team plays well was shown—again—by the Strasbourg game.

PORTUGAL

Fighting back as an international force

says Arthur Rotmil

PORTUGUESE football was dismissed across Europe early in November as old fashioned and second rate. Following the swift exit of all four clubs in the various European cup competitions and the national team's laborious 1-1 home draw against Belgium in a European Championship tie, even the Portuguese experts were ready to write an obituary on Portugal's international standing.

But, as so often happens in football, a couple of good results have suddenly changed the mood from depression to euphoria. The sensational 2-1 win over Austria in Vienna and the 1-0 victory against Scotland in Lisbon have put Portugal on top of the qualifying group II, with an excellent chance of winning through to the finals.

Much credit must go to new manager Mario Wilson, a former coach of Benfica and the father of the present Benfica player of the same name. Wilson took over amid some controversy. Following the resignation a year ago of José Maria Pedroto, the Football Federation appointed Yuca Pereira as a caretaker manager for last season, but then tried again to make peace with Pedroto —without success. Wilson is in fact a compromise choice.

Wilson is facing the usual problems here, battling against the big clubs who put their own interests first and constantly oppose too many international fixtures. Small wonder then, that in the last two years Portugal played only nine internationals—only three of them friendlies.

The new team chief is grateful that he doesn't have to search too far for his candidates. The country's record champions Benfica (23 titles), provide the backbone of the national side with seven men: Goalkeeper Bento, defenders Humberto, Alhinho and Alberto, midfielders Alves and Pietra and striker Nene. This large contingent ensures smooth team work, so vital to the style of play favoured by the Portuguese and based on the concept of their great cousins, the Brazilians.

Benfica have recently broken with old established tradition: For the first time in the 74-year history this famous club will engage foreign players. Up till now, only Portuguese nationals, or those from the old colonies like Angola and Mozambique, were allowed to wear the red jerseys of the "Eagles of Lisbon".

Their capable English coach John Mortimore 48, (a former Chelsea centre half and Portsmouth manager) has done some fine work here. He strengthened the team this season by the acquisition of schemer Alves, returning from Salamanca in Spain, the centre back Alhinho who came back from Belgium and the top scorer in the Second Division last season, Reinaldo, a coloured striker from Guinea, hailed as "another Eusebio".

Alberto's goal for Portugal against Austria.

But it was another coloured star who grabbed the headlines recently: Left back Alberto, who scored the winning goal in Austria in injury time; and hit the winner against Scotland for good measure at home in Lisbon. Only a fortnight earlier he was the "villain", having been sent off in Benfica's 0-2 defeat by Borussia Monchengladbach in the UEFA-Cup. This 22-year-old, who was born in Guinea, has only recently established himself as a regular.

The reigning champions FC Porto provide three men in the national side: midfielder Costa, plus forwards Oliveira and Gomes; the latter in fact the League's leading scorer for the past two seasons. Porto's team chief José Maria Pedroto brought better balance to the side with the purchase of defender Vieira (formerly with Estoril), midfielder Costa (ex-Coimbra) and Frasco (ex-Leixoes).

A blot on their record is the crushing 6-1 defeat by AEK Athens in the European Cup; even a 4-1 home win in the return couldn't appease the fans.

The third big club here, Sporting Lisbon, have faced an injury crisis which affected them more than any other team. The early elimination from the Cup Winners' Cup (by Czech club Banik Ostrava) was depressing, but not quite so unexpected. Their schemer Fraguito and Baltazar have been missing since the start of the season, while top striker Jordao has again broken his leg. The Yugoslav manager Milorad Pavic was severely criticised, but he was short of key players at the time.

The "bit Three" continue to dominate the domestic scene, since they alone have enough money to buy the best players and to lure the top managers. Some experts are in favour of foreign coaches who can infuse much needed discipline and modernise tactics. At the moment there are only three imported managers active in Portugal's First Division: John Mortimore (Benfica), who is English, Milorad Pavic (Sporting Lisbon) a Yugoslav and Mario Imbelloni (Famalicao) an Argentinian.

But Famalicao, newly promoted, are not exactly setting the upper class on fire. In ten games they scored just six goals, which brought them ten points and tenth place in the table. Benfica, who last season finished second, but were unbeaten in the complete 30-match programme, have already suffered three defeats this term, but headed the table on goal difference from the title holders Porto.

At domestic level the main criticism is levelled at those big clubs who buy players and then relegate them to the reserve bench. Because there is no programme of reserve team games, most of these men soon lose heart and form, through lack of match practice. But often such players are simply bought so that the rival clubs would not get them!

Nene scores for Portugal against Austria in the European Championship match in Vienna, which Portugal won 2-1.

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The BRIAN GLANVILLE column

THE 25,000 franc fine on A.C. Milan and the suspension of the Scottish referee Gordon and his two linesmen has opened an old can of worms. Milan of course have protested, with all the fervent sincerity of an Italian footballer who has just chopped an opponent to the ground, that they are innocent and pure as the driven snow, that their officials were merely being helpful to Scots officials out shopping, who found they hadn't the requisite lire at the appropriate time. Gordon himself and his two linesmen clearly infringed the rules of FIFA, which forbid the acceptance of excessive presents, yet I cannot help feeling sorry for them.

There is not a jot of evidence that they officiated in any but the most correct and objective way in the Milan-Levski Spartak match; and how many referees have got away with outright larceny in games contested by Italian clubs? You will probably know the list as well as I do by now.

It certainly includes the deplorable Greek referee Michas, who made a fiasco of the 1973 European Cupwinners' Cup Final in Salonika between Milan (yes, Milan) and Leeds United. Milan won it 1-0, but they might well, with a decent referee, have given away three or four penalties. Afterwards, as we know, Michas was supended, but though UEFA struck him from their list, Milan kept the Cup they had so dubiously won.

That was the worst of their misdemeanours, but almost exactly ten years before the Gordon Affair, there was a notorious game at San Siro in the European Cup, against Malmo, who had won the first leg, and began the second so well that they looked as if they might easily knock out the Italian team. It was not to be. The extraordinary refereeing of the Frenchman M. Machin, still remembered with bitterness in Malmo, turned the tide in Milan's favour.

It's a game worth looking back on, however distant. Here is what an able colleague, a much travelled journalist, of Stockholm wrote to me about it: "The game was played on October 2, 1968 and was refereed (if that's the word) by M. Machin from France. Everybody that I have talked to or read agrees that Machin favoured Milan right from the start and really terrorized the Malmo players. Malmo took the lead in the sixteenth minute when Ljunberg scored. Ten minutes later the centre-half Roy Andersson headed a goal that would have made it 4-1 on aggregate. For some remote reason (or rather for what we know is the reason)the referee disallowed the goal. The official view was that Andersson had impeded the keeper. . . . I have now seen still photos of that goal and Andersson is at least four yards from the keeper when the ball enters the net AND HE IS MOVING FORWARD TOWARDS THE KEEPER.

"In the 32nd minute Prati equalised and after that Malmo lost their poise and further goals by Sormani, Prati and Rivera (penalty) settled the matter. It is obvious from reports that it was the continuous pestering from the referee that led to Malmo losing their rhythm. He warned no less than SIX Swedes and six minutes before the end he sent off the captain Kristensson, who according to his own words merely had asked (in English) how many minutes were left."

There is a further irony about the Gordon Affair. Milan, having drawn the first leg in Sofia, surely seemed high and dry. There was no need to sweeten the referee of the return game.

WHERE, you may well ask, does that leave Juventus, far greater sinners, over the Lobo-Solti case? When last we saw our dubious heroes, they had wriggled off the hook yet again, courtesy of an astonishing (on second thoughts no, not really astonishing) decision by UEFA.

In March, 1977, we published in the SUNDAY TIMES the photostat of a document signed by Solti, the archcorrupotor, the man who has unsuccessfully tried to bribe Lobo in Lisbon. Signed on behalf of Juventus in Enschede, Holland, the document set down an agreement on Fairs Cup dates in 1971 between Juventus and the Twente club. This clearly showed that Juve had lied when they said that Solti had no connection with them; lied to UEFA's Disciplinary Committee, and, subsequently, to the world at large.

What was UEFA's response to this? Why, to accept the bizarre advice of their lawyer, the wealthy ski magnate Marc Hodler, to order Juventus to sue Solti! So far, not a thing has happened. What a surprise! The passivity on this matter of such as our own Football Association—after all, Derby County was the club which would have suffered had Lobo not been an honest man—has helped UEFA and Juventus to perpetuate this fiasco.

Investigative journalism can go only so far. If the relevant authorities are unwilling to take proper action, and other associated authorities are unwilling to prod them, then there is little to be done. A wretched scene.

NOT till February. In Zurich, will FIFA's World Cup Committee resume discussions on the shape of the 1982 World Cup. The present confusion has been brought about by Joao Havelange's electioneering campaign for the FIFA Presidency. Promises, promises. Above all to the tedious Afro-Asians, whose politicking has steadily reduced FIFA into a forum for the shrill resentments and exaggerated claims of international football's proletariat.

Havelange told them that he would see they had larger representation in the World Cup Finals. To do this, he could scarcely reduce the representation of an already displeased Europe, nor that of South America, so it entailed expanding the number of finalists from 16 to 24. The implication was that the extra places would go largely to the Afro-Asians. But in Buenos Aires last May the Europeans protested so vehemently against this that the Havelange faction had to back down.

Cringing compromises were reached. First, and ludicrously, it was decided that the question of whether the final entry be 16 or 24 should be left to the organising country; a clear ducking of responsibility.

Secondly, the suggestion was mooted that in the event of there being 24 teams, the extra ones would be decided on the basis of how they had finished in the original eliminating competition, either by designation (a potentially controversial method indeed) or by further eliminating matches.

The Spaniards at first seemed to be firmly against the extension to 24. Their President, Pablo Port, said he thought the World Cup should be a genuine international championship, not one for the freaks of the game. You could scarcely be more explicit than that.

But the November meeting of FIFA in Madrid made it clear that in essence the Spaniards, as WORLD SOCCER has reported, are not averse to having 24 teams; provided they be of sufficient stature.

BRAZIL

by Claudio Kuck of 'O Globo'

Flamengo win in Rio and Corinthians in Sao Paulo

AFTER the Guanabara Cup Flamengo also won the second part of the Rio de Janeiro championship and are the new Carioca champions — the second title in a row for coach Claudio Coutinho.

Flamengo beat Vasco da Gama in the final with a goal from defender Rondinelli, who headed in a corner by Zico four minutes from the end. A draw would have given the title to Vasco.

The match saw a big party in Maracana. Samba, songs, flags, some fights and an attendance of more than 160,000. But after the match, while the Mengo supporters celebrated, the Vascainos left the stadium in mourning and almost all bars in Rio closed.

The problem was that the majority of bars in Rio are owned by Portuguese immigrants, who support Vasco and weren't prepared to sell beer for the Flamengo party.

A week before the final Flamengo beat Botafogo 1-0 and Vasco beat Fluminense 2-0. Flamengo had nine wins and one draw for 19 points; Vasco had 10 wins for 20 points.

Flamengo versus Vasco was a very nervy match. Before it Flamengo asked for a foreign referee, if possible English, but Vasco and the Rio football association rejected the idea. The referee and the two linesmen were Brazilians and each one earned £1,250 for just this match.

Another big issue was who would be the top scorer. Before the final Claudio Adao and Zico (Flamengo) and Roberto (Vasco) had 19 goals each. But none scored in the final and they had to share the title.

Coutinho and the Flamengo players worked hard to win the Carioca championship. They tried to play a kind of 'total football' and scored an average of three goals per match. They were superb against Portuguesa with a 9-0 victory.

Zico has forgotten his World Cup problems and is playing well while Paulo Cesar Carpegiani (Brazil midfielder in West Germany in 1974) is now the big star, the centre of everything in the Coutinho system.

Claudio Adao is also playing well, as he used to for Santos, where he started very young alongside Pele, who said: "He will be my successor." The young Adilio is one of the best newcomers in Brazilian soccer while goalkeeper Raul, bought from Cruzeiro, gave confidence to the defence and right back Toninho is playing as well as he did in Argentina.

But Flamengo have some problems in finding good wingers, a problem not only for Flamengo, but common in Brazilian football.

RIVELINO TO COSMOS?

The two other big clubs in Rio, Fluminense and Botafogo, are not in a good mood. Fluminense have not yet received the money from Rivelino's transfer to El-Helal and besides preparing to sue the Arab club are reporting them to FIFA. The Brazilian press say Rivelino will end up at New York Cosmos.

Fluminense have also lost their other big star, Francisco Marinho, who signed for Cosmos for only £150,000. Fluminense are desperate for money to pay salaries for the past three months. Marinho, the blond left back, played his last match as Fluminense lost 2-0 to Vasco. He tried hard to score but couldn't. He had two free-kicks, to the first of which the goalkeeper Leao made a good save (they are not friends and even exchanged punches after Brazil's defeat by Poland in the third place match in the 1974 World Cup). With the second he hit the post.

Marinho said: "It was a pity. It would have been very special in my last match to score a free-kick against Leao, who doesn't like me. He always says Brazil lost the third place in Germany because I was attacking and let Lato score the winning goal for Poland.

"But I am going to Cosmos to prove I am one of the three best left-backs of the world. In the 1982 World Cup I will be only 29 and Brazil will recall me. This year I wasn't in Argentina because Paulo Cesar and I asked for a US $1,000 bonus against Peru and Bolivia, during the qualifying tournament.

"But we only spoke on behalf of the other players. I am sure that in going to Cosmos, my name will be in the headlines of the international press again."

I hope so, because Marinho is a marvellous player to watch.

BOTAFOGO AND PAULO CESAR

In the past Botafogo have had some big stars: Didi, Nilton Santos, Garrincha, Amarildo, Zagalo, Gerson. Now they are in a deep crisis. The team are playing so poorly some supporters are throwing stones and cans of beer at coach Danilo Alves.

The police have had to protect him and now, even on practice days, the Botafogo supporters are searched before being allowed in.

Chairman Charles Borer is very upset and is thinking of replacing Danilo, even though he has only just taken over from Zagalo. Borer is talking also of putting six players on the transfer list: Mario Sergio, Manfrini, Ademir, Cremilson, Ubirajara and Brazil right winger Gil. Botafogo have a good under-21 side and plan to promote some of them and to build a new team.

Paulo Cesar is another big Botafogo problem. In November he said he was fed up with Brazil and asked to be transferred. He went to France trying to sign for Paris-Saint Germain or Marseille. But both clubs can sign new players only at the end of the season next June. Then, Daniel Hechter (former Paris-Saint Germain chairman), a close friend of Cesar, offered him to Fulham. The English club sent tickets and the Brazilian arrived in London.

I met him at Craven Cottage and he was very enthusiastic about the idea of playing in London. I gave him a lift to Daniel Hechter's shop in Bond Street and he said during the journey: "You know that in Brazil we never forget that the English invented football and in a sense, I think our soccer is an English 'son'. I like everything at Fulham, the manager Bobby Campbell, the chairman Clay, the young players, the stadium. I know they are a second division side but I am sure 'we' can be promoted this season."

Paulo Cesar was so enthusiastic he was talking as if he already was a Fulham player. He surprised me also with a good knowledge of English football. He knew that Bobby Moore and Allan Mullery once played for Fulham, that Fulham played and lost 2-0 in the FA Cup final against West Ham at Wembley three years ago and that some people said he would be the club's "new George Best."

"The difference is that though we both like sports cars, nice clothes, night-clubs and beautiful girls, perhaps Best wasn't in good physical form and I am."

But after Paulo Cesar's lawyer arrived and after watching Fulham's poor 0-0 draw with West Ham, he seemed to change his mind. They had more discussions with Fulham and finally the deal was called off.

Paulo Cesar said to me: "Fulham offered me a Lancia sports car, good salary and a flat, but after the tax I realised that I would earn less money than I do now in Rio. We also wanted the money in cash because that is what the Brazilian clubs ask for now, after Fluminense's problems in getting the money for Rivelino from the Arabs. It was a pity. I really would like to play in England. But the dream is over."

The strange thing is that Paulo Cesar said that to me in London on the Thursday but next day, when he arrived in Rio, he told the press and Botafogo's chairman: "We are still dealing with Fulham and they will consider our proposal and give their final word next Tuesday. I really think that I will play for them next season."

Of course nothing happened. Fulham aren't interested in him any more. Paulo Cesar's contract with Botafogo ends in February.

IN SAO PAULO CORINTHIANS WIN

Corinthians won a complicated Cidade de Sao Paulo Cup (first part of the Paulista championship) but the tournament, with eight finalists, was stopped twice.

● Continued on page 43

TWENTY-FOUR HOURS WITH GREENWOOD

TO WITNESS 24 hours in the life of Ron Greenwood can be an illuminating and gratifying experience. I had this privilege recently, although more by accident than by design. The first function we "attended together" was the Wednesday evening fixture at Wembley Stadium between England and Czechoslovakia — me in the Press Box, Ron on the bench.

I thought it a highly interesting game, perhaps one of the most significant so far in the Greenwood era. Here was an ordinary run-of-the-mill friendly with very little ballyhoo to elevate the visitors into world beaters.

Yet, there was a full house on a rather unpleasant night, due to the England side's currently good results or its new, swashbuckling style, or more likely, a combination of both factors.

But instead of settling back comfortably and watching the usual panic-stricken opposition trying to restrict England to a "respectable" victory, we were jerked out of our seats by a vibrant, enterprising, beautifully-balanced Czech side.

Marion Masny reminded me of Florian Albert at the peak of his career, Nehoda was dangerous every time he had the ball, and the younger players, Kozak and Stambacher were industrious and skilful.

England, on an icy pitch, were thrown out of their stride by facing such classy opponents, and it is history now that only Shilton's heroics, and a Michalek blunder combined to provide the ludicrous scoreline of 1-0 to the home side.

However, in a low-scoring game like soccer, the results do not always mirror the respective merits of the combatants, and chances must be converted (Shilton or no Shilton) to translate territorial and technical advantages into a tangible reward.

At the after-match Press conference, Jozsef Venglos, a most sympathetic character, agreed with the above assessment, and blamed a muddled period in the second-half for his team's defeat.

Greenwood, always a scrupulously fair assessor of a match, said that England were lucky, but it was about time that one of his teams had a touch of good fortune, since at West Ham he had won more beauty competitions than Raquel Welch, but very few matches (or words to that effect!).

He also expressed his doubts over the Czech's studs, questioning that while even usually perfectly-balanced players like Viv Anderson skidded about on the pitch, the Czechs' foothold seemed amazingly secure. As such honesty was in complete contrast to what we were used to from former England managers, I found myself in complete agreement with Ron.

(Sir Alf would have said: "They were good but we were better, that's why we won". Revie would have been walking around as though he had just won the World Cup!)

But some of my fellow scribes cannot, or will not, swallow the truth. John Sadler in "The Sun" attacked Greenwood, saying — not for the first time — that if he thinks that English football is inferior to that of some other countries, he shouldn't have taken the job.

In fact, Sadler equates patriotism with blind ignorance. Precisely because Greenwood realises that in certain aspects, our football is lagging behind, he is the ideal person for improving our game. As I said before, English football has never been known for its exquisite technique, witticism or invention.

Phil Neal (left) Butch Wilkins (centre) and Viv Anderson during an England training session prior to the match against Czechoslovakia at Wembley.

Standard

There are other qualities, such as combativeness, strength in the tackle and running, good heading ability, excellent standard of goalkeeping, non-stop aggression, etc., which puts us near the top of the heap.

Now, if Greenwood and other like-minded coaches can persuade their players to practice the basic skills more diligently, and not regard their football education complete as soon as they make the First Division, then we might catch up in this respect as well with the leading countries of the world.

But there is no shame in admitting the obvious — the Czechs were technically superior to England at Wembley, they deserved to win. O.K.? On another day at another place on a different pitch, the equation might be different. To criticise the England manager for saying just that *publicly* is foolish!

Jackie Charlton also surprised me by writing that in his days, the England team had five or six regulars, but Greenwood has no group of players to form the nucleus of a team. I would have thought that Shilton, Watson, Keegan, Francis and Brooking were

Speaking Personally with LESLIE VERNON

automatic selections, and provided a solid basis for an ever-improving England.

On the morning after the match, three footballing knights (Sir Harold Thompson, Sir Stanley Rous, Sir Walter Winterbottom), secretary Ted Croker, chief coach Alan Wade, Ron Greenwood, Bobby Charlton and Geoff Hurst, turned up at Bisham Abbey, the National Sports Centre.

No, it wasn't yet another occasion to discuss the game against Czechoslovakia, the freedom of contract issue or even the TV deal between the League and London Weekend. This glittering array of dignitaries unveiled in front of our very eyes, the new "Super-skills" scheme for children between the ages of 7-12. Twenty-nine schoolkids gave an interesting demonstration of the scheme, which is on the lines of swimming awards certificates to children who attain a certain standard of efficiency.

Opinion

Sir Harold Thompson, chairman of the F.A., explains: "In my opinion, the most important thing in football is to teach youngsters how to improve the basic skills of the game, kicking the ball, heading, trapping and so on. If these have been acquired, instruction, mental perception and speed of thought can be used to apply wider strategies and tactics. Also, of course, the ability in the game to read a situation quickly, and to adapt, is also very important, indeed fundamental.

The Award Scheme being introduced by The Football Association will concentrate on the basic skills as a first requirement, everybody who wishes to enjoy the game should aim to improve them. This is an enterprise in which schoolmasters themselves can also contribute much, as they have for many years.

"I am sure that they will continue to do so. I hope that it becomes the pride of many, to gain and wear the awards given as a mark of their achievement."

Ron Greenwood added: "Football is such a beautifully simple game. All you need is a ball, a few friends and there'll be a game going at the drop of a couple of jackets to act as goals. If it were as easy to get players to practice the basic skills the game would be a lot better for it." This is an excellent idea, and already more than 10,000 schoolboys have enrolled and are aiming for the five awards — blue, red, black, silver and gold. The scheme itself (badges, certificates, literature) is sponsored by the Coca-Cola Company (they also do a marvellous lunch for the Press!), but eventually, it should be self-supporting.

England team manager Ron Greenwood . . . a hectic 24 hours for him — and World Soccer's Leslie Vernon!

Alan Wade told me why he thinks this initiative should help our football: "It is arrogant to think that we shall always have players. Kids have so many other distractions in their lives, that for them to choose football is not as natural as it might have been a few years ago. Now, despite their teachers, they will improve their skills. I am sorry that I have to say that, but many schoolteachers obviously don't know how to train footballers — especially in the very young age-groups. Now, the lads — and the girls — can practice alone — there is a blueprint for them. Awards and certificates are merely the icing on the cake."

Ron Greenwood, who by now I imagine, is sick to death of talking about the Czechs and their blessed studs, added: "It is difficult to measure skills in football. But even if all these kids never become professional players, they will be better spectators, because they will appreciate the finer points of the game."

On the same evening, I was invited to attend the annual dinner of the London Coaches Association. And who do you think was sitting at the top table, talking about the Czechs and the studs . . .? This time, in his speech, Greenwood dismissed the subject by quoting the old Hungarian aphorism: "victories don't need explanations."

But he spoke with warmth about the London coaches, who were the first in the country to form an association, under the inspring guidance of Sir Walter Winterbottom. The current chairman is Ken Friar, the Arsenal secretary, his predecessor was Bob Wall, and the "Gunners connection" is enforced by the active participation of Bertie Mee and, of course, Greenwood himself, who was once an Arsenal coach.

The presence of two American visitors made the evening especially interesting — Jackman Stewart is a first-class coach, and Phil Woosnam was laughingly described as the Alan Hardacre of the U.S.A. We all left around midnight — it's a hard job to be an England manager, but it has its convivial rewards!

Greenwood is on the right track. I am sure he is wise and experienced enough not to take any notice of the snipers, knockers and character assassins, who in search of sensational headlines, would like to see someone more flamboyant leading the England pack.

P.S.: The comedian who was supposed to entertain us failed to arrive at the coaches' dinner. So, they asked Phil Woosnam, Commissioner of the N.A.S.L., to make a speech about soccer in America — an apt substitute subject!

Scandinavian review conducted by Eric Batty

Last eight place for Malmo FF

SWEDEN'S 1977 champions Malmo FF have surprised even their biggest fans by eliminating Dynamo Kiev from the European Cup to reach the quarter finals. For their English manager Bob Houghton, still in his early thirties, it is probably his biggest achievement yet for he has got through to the last eight without conceding a single goal in ties against the Russians and AS Monaco, the French champions.

Houghton created a furore when he first took over Malmo, changing their system of play and giving their style an English touch with long passes and the ball in the air a lot. Many fans didn't like it, but when it began to pay dividends it became accepted and in the last two or three years Malmo have pulled in bigger crowds than anyone else in Sweden.

English managers are not unusual in Sweden. Roy Hodgson is at Halmstad BK and they won the championship in 1976, and for next season, starting in April, Alan Ball senior will be looking after the Stockholm club Djurgaarden.

Neighbours AIK have also been fishing for an Englishman, largely because the club has a great many internal problems. Several of the best players have made it plain they want away, and 1978 manager-coach Gunnar Nordahl has quit. The squabbles have been so public that the chances are that no Swedish coach will want the job.

The 1978 Footballer of the year is international goalkeeper Ronnie Hellstrom who starred in the World Cup but plays in West Germany for 1st FC Kaiserslautern. This underlines the shortage of top quality talent at home.

Champions

Perhaps the biggest disappointment of the 1978 championship was the comparative failure of IFK Goteborg who had three forwards in Sweden's World Cup 22 as well as Bjorn Norquist the *libero* with his new world record of 115 caps. Ralf Edstrom had a very up and down season and Goteborg only finished third in the league table, seven clear points behind the champions.

Malmo FF, already champions three times under Houghton were expected to take the title again, and they started like a house on fire. In the first nine games they won eight and drew one, before going down at the tenth hurdle 0-1 away to Halmstad.

But after the summer break for the World Cup to be screened on the box, Malmo found it hard to get goals and when their centre forward Thomas Sjoberg quit to play in Saudi Arabia, they began to slide, and IFK Oster (Vaxjo) romped away with the title. Vaxjo beat Malmo in mid season by 1-0 and were far more consistent throughout. After eleven matches Oster had a record of won 6 drawn 5 lost 0.

The Iceland international 27 years old Teitur Thordarsson scored the vital Oster goal v Malmo and he played a big part in the success of the Vaxjo club.

Malmo had signed Sjoberg as a professional in order to ensure they got a fee when he left for he was wanted by several West German clubs. But half a million Swedish Crowns is no good if you cannot buy a replacement.

With goals hard to come by without Sjoberg, Malmo's remaining fifteen league games brought only three wins, seven draws and five defeats, yet almost unbelievably they hung on to second place to earn a crack at the UEFA Cup in 1979-80. This serves only to underline the poverty of the Swedish game where there is a good sprinkling of 'professional' players from such well known soccer hot-beds as Finland, Iceland and Denmark.

Then with the championship lost, came Malmo's moments of triumph. First, in the European Cup they drew 0-0 away to Dynamo Kiev and beat them 2-0 at home with goals from Cervin and Kindvall in the first half. That can only be put down to yet another Russian failure.

No doubt boosted by that success, four days later Malmo carried off the Swedish FA Cup, though it took them 120 minutes to overcome Kalmar, after the 90 minute score was 0-0. Malmo will thus play in the Cupwinners Cup as the more senior competition.

Up from Division II come IFK Sundsvall (after only one season down) and IF Hamia.

Now the Swedish critics, disappointed by the failure of their national team are claiming that a new side should be built around Oster IF—Oster Idrottsforening Vaxjo. They were only formed in 1930 and first appeared in the premier division in 1967 and they had only two men in Sweden's World Cup 22: deputy goalkeeper Goran Hagberg and full back Bjorn Andersson, back in Sweden after a spell with Bayern Munich.

In Finland, HJK Helsinki won the league title for the first time in some years. KuPs, from Kuopio seemed to have shot their bolt now keeping their old team together too long.

The 1977 champions Vekeakosken Haka dropped to third while KuPs were seventh. Top goalgetter was Atik Ismail of HJK with 20 goals who is now playing in Turkey for Besiktas. The son of a Turkish immigrant worker, Ismail has already been capped for Finland, and the HJK deal is that he will go back to Helsinki to play for HJK in April.

Pertti Alaja, of Finland

Gianni Rivera in action for Milan.

Rivera still in the news

ITALIAN LEAGUE LINE-UPS:

Atalanta.—Bodini; Osti, Mei; Vavassori, Prandelli, Tavola; Rocca, Mastropasqua, Paina, Festa, Garritano. (Gian Rota).

Ascoli.—Pulici; Anzivino, Perico; Scorsa, Gasparini, Bellotto; Trevisanello, Moro, Ambu, Pileggi, Anastasi. (Antonio Renna).

Avellino.—Piotti; Reali, Roggi; Casale, Cattaneo, Di Somma; Massa, Montesi, De Ponti, Lombardi, Tacchi. (Rino Marchesi).

Bologna.—Memo; Roversi, Sali; Bellugi, Bachlechner, Maselli; Vincenzi, Castronaro, Bordon, Paris, Colomba. (Bruno Pesaola).

Catanzaro.—Mattolini; Groppi, Ranieri; Turone, Menichini, Zanini; Nicolini, Orazi, Rossi, Improta, Palanca. (Carlo Mazzone).

Fiorentina.—Galli, Lelj, Tendi; Galbiati, Galdiolo, Orlandini; Restelli, Di Gennaro, Pagliari, Antognoni, Amenta. (Tom Carosi).

Inter.—Bordon; G. Baresi, Fedele; Pasinato, Canuti, Bini; Oriali, Marini, Altobelli, Beccalossi, Chierico. (Eugenio Bersellini).

Juventus.—Zoff; Cuccureddu, Gentile; Furino, Morini, Scirea; Causio, Tardelli, Boninsegna, Benetti, Bettega. (Giovanni Trapattoni).

Lazio.—Cacciatori; Tassotti, Martini; Wilson, Manfredonia, Cordova; Garlaschelli, Lopez, Giordano, D'Amico, Badiani. (Bob Lovati).

Milan.—Albertosi; Collovati, Maldera; De Vecchi, Boldini, F. Baresi; Buriani, Bigon, Novellino, Rivera, Chiodi. (Nils Liedholm).

Napoli.—Castellini; Bruscolotti, Ferrario; Caporale, Catellani, Pin; Pellegrini, Vinazzani, Savoldi, Caso, Filippi. (Luis Vinicio).

Perugia.—Malizia; Redeghieri, Ceccarini; Frosio, Della Martira, Dal Fiume; Bagni, Butti, Casarsa, Vannini, Cacciatori. (Ilario Castagner).

Roma.—Conti; Peccenini, Chinellato; Borelli, Spinosi, Santarini; Maggiora, Di Bartolomei, Pruzzo, De Sisti, De Nadai. (Ferruccio Valcareggi).

Torino.—Terraneo; Danova, Vullo, Salvadori, Mozzini, Zaccarelli; C. Sala, P. Sala, Graziani, Pecci, Pulici. (Gigi Radice).

Verona.—Superchi; Spinozzi, Antoniazzi; Esposito, Gentile, Negrisolo; Guidolin, Mascetti, Musiello, Massimelli, Bergamaschi. (Beppe Chiappella).

Vicenza.—Galli; Secondini, Marangon; Guidetti, Prestanti, Miani; Cerilli, Salvi, Rossi, Faloppa, Rosi. (Gian Battista Fabbri).

Top scorers: Giordano (Lazio) 7. Bettega (Juve), Savoldi (Napoli), Graziani (Torino) all 5.

GIANNI RIVERA just can't keep out of trouble. Even at 35 he remains a marked man and a league inquiry followed his attack on Juventus after the champions' 1-0 win over joint league leaders, Milan.

Rivera accused Juventus of having few ideas apart from kicking and certainly he had been the victim of an awful incident at the kick-off when Marco Tardelli swept straight through him with the ball nowhere near.

Milan's bitterness may also have stemmed from the fact that they lost to a second-minute goal from Roberto Bettega.

Juve were glad to see "Bobby-goal" scoring again, for Pietro Paolo Virdis hasn't had a happy time up front, perhaps because of the six-month suspended jail sentence passed by a court for a scuffle he was involved in with a policeman towards the end of last season.

Now Roberto Boninsegna has been recalled, at 35, and Juve are making up for their slow start by pulling up the table. The style may not be pleasant—there were 41 free kicks in their 1-1 draw with neighbours Torino—but the way everyone else has been writing Juve off has spurred the players on.

With an average age of 28 they are the oldest team in the first division, but still formidable and determined to let no one have an easy ride.

In the Turin derby Juve went a goal down to Francesco Graziani after 37 minutes, but Graziani was also the scapegoat for the Torino fans when he allowed Juve sweeper Gaetano Scirea to elude him and grab an 81st-minute equaliser.

The league is the most open for years. Provincial surprises Perugia and Milan are joint top with 15 points, followed by Torino, Juventus and Inter on 13, with Fiorentina on 12.

No one club has shown consistent class and it's reasonable to assume that the league will be decided more by which teams drop points than gain them.

Milan's strength comes from the wily direction of resources by coach Nils Liedholm. For the Milano derby he surprisingly left out Rivera at the last minute, included an extra striker and was rewarded for his comparative audacity by a 1-0 win. The goal was yet another for the raiding full back Aldo Maldera, his 17th in 127 games for Milan, a proud record which puts him in the Facchetti class.

Inter centre forward Sandro Altobelli was sent off to the great displeasure of coach Eugenio Bersellini, who fined him £500 in addition to the league's one-game suspension.

Fiorentina's high standing after their narrow escape from relegation last season is welcome, as much for the unassuming manner in which new coach Tom Carosi has established himself. At the end of last season it seemed ex-Fiorentina right half and coach Beppe Chiappella might return.

Instead he had to wait until Verona's recent 1-0 defeat in Florence, since Verona had just engaged him to replace the sacked Luigi Mascalaito—the third manager dismissed so far this season after Giagnoni by Roma and Di Marzio by Napoli. Verona, with six points, are next to bottom. Only Atalanta, on five points, are below them, with Bologna, Roma, Avellino and Lanerossi Vicenza all just above on seven.

Lanerossi were the surprise team last season, of course, finishing second thanks to the goals of Paolo Rossi. But their struggles this season have reopened speculation that Rossi may yet join Juventus.

Before the World Cup Vicenza won the right to buy out Juve's half share in Rossi. But with the player's value at about £3 million they now owe Juventus so much it's possible they will release him after all at the season's end to fund their own rebuilding programme.

This season's surprises are Perugia, their league pacemaking being all the more remarkable since they sold the man everyone thought to be their only star—Walter Novellino—to Milan during the summer.

Coach Ilario Castagner has husbanded his resources well and though Perugia have been expected to crack up each week, they have maintained their progress. With 10 games gone they remain the only unbeaten team in Serie A, with five wins and five draws—the most recent a well-deserved 1-1 tie away to Milan!

WEST GERMANY

by Arthur Rotmil

National some

THE NATIONAL TEAM has regained a lot of its prestige which was badly tarnished through the insipid performances in the World Cup in Argentina. The 4-3 away win over the reigning European champions Czechoslovakia was a tonic and even the less impressive display during the hour of the match with Hungary, which was then abandoned because of fog, did not stifle the newly aroused interest.

For the next international, a friendly v. Holland on December 20 at Düsseldorf, there was such a run on tickets, that within hours of the box office opening for business, all 33,000 seats were sold, while terrace tickets were also rapidly disposed of. A capacity 70,000 crowd was expected, reinforced by thousands of Dutchmen crossing the nearby border to support their team.

Yet, the West German performance against Hungary was anything but convincing. Manager Jupp Derwall wanted to field the same side as that which beat the Czechs, but first stopper Karl-Heinz Förster was injured and then Hansi Müller was sent off in the *Bundesliga* match against Bochum. Because of this the highly talented midfielder was, as is customary here, not selected to represent his country. Later Müller was suspended for eight weeks—a harsh sentence considering it was for an innocuous foul which most referees would have punished at worst by a warning.

The fact that it was the same referee (Klaus Ohmsen) who last year collided unluckily with Müller and fractured his hand, may not have had anything to do with it . . . Klaus Allofs took Müller's place, while Rolf Rüssmann returned to the heart of the defence.

While visibility at the Wald-Stadion in Frankfurt had lasted, the Germans pressed heavily but could make little headway up front where they bunched together too much, because not enough use was made of the open spaces by the wingers Abramczik and Rummenigge. After an hour the fog descended like a ghostly blanket, so that French referee Robert Wurtz had no option but to call off the proceedings.

The West German Football Federation (DFB) will include the result 0-0 in their records, whilst the players will be entitled to count this match as a full international appearance.

The national manager's main problem remains the position of the central striker. Klaus Fischer has failed to score in nine successive internationals and now some experts are demanding a change. The most obvious replacement should be Klaus Toppmöller (27), the brilliant centre forward of league leaders 1. FC Kaiserslautern.

Toppmöller celebrated his début in the national ranks 2½ years ago and scored then against Spain in a European Championship quarter-final tie. But only eight days later he was involved in a terrible car crash and this put him out of football for months.

Striker

Another striker who has made headlines is Walter Kelsch (23) from VfB Stuttgart, who scored a fine hat-trick in the B-national team's 3-0 win over Hungary B.

Toppmöller has been instrumental in Kaiserslautern's surge to the top of the table. The "Lauterer" have equalled the

Rolf Russmann, in training . . . but for what? Football or mountaineering!

team regain lost prestige

record of Bayern Munich who started the season 1971-72 without defeat in 14 matches. In brilliant form has been for them their Swedish World Cup goalkeeper Ronnie Hellstroem (71 caps). He recently saved his tenth penalty in the Bundesliga, which put him behind only Nigbur (13 penalty saves) and Radenkovic (11).

"There is no secret to Kaiserslautern's successful run," claims their new manager Karl-Heinz Feldkamp. Team work, tactical discipline, stamina, fighting spirit and determination are the most frequently used adjectives to describe the "Reds" from the Pfalz.

But in their 15th match came a resounding crash: A 5-1 defeat at Borussia Mönchengladbach's Bokelberg ground. This result was particularly unexpected, as only three days earlier Borussia made heavy weather of the modest Polish team, Slask Wroclaw, being held to a 1-1 draw in the UEFA-Cup. The dreadful string of injuries had affected the performances of the former champions. But the return of strikers like Del'Haye and Simonsen has brought new life to the attack which again looked irresistible.

How much this setback will upset Kaiserslautern remains to be seen. Their closest challengers remain Hamburger SV, who under the "dynamic duo" of general manager Günter Netzer and team coach Branko Zebec have raised the team (only tenth last season) to the position of title contenders. Their new centre forward Horst Hrubesch has at last found his shooting boots and Keegan is now playing better than at the start of the season. In the twelfth game Keegan scored his first *Bundesliga* goal of the season (in a 5-0 win over Borussia Dortmund) and followed up in the next home match with two goals in a 4-2 victory over Schalke, before a capacity crowd of 61,000 at the Volksparkstadion.

Crowds continue to flock, especially to see the "fashionable" teams and the most popular home side is still VfB Stuttgart, whose average last year of 54,000 per match is a record. But their supporters are also keen on international football. For their UEFA-Cup match against Torpedo Moscow, VfB drew 63,000 and for the visit of Dukla Prague 71,500 packed the Neckarstadion. Since the players are participating financially in the gate receipts, they are looking forward to further "house full" notices in subsequent rounds—if any.

Bayern Munich remain the enigma of German football. Brilliant one day, awful the next and manager Guyla Lorant praised today as master tactician, tomorrow likely to be dismissed as an oaf. Bayern were invited to play Ajax Amsterdam in Johan Cruyff's farewell match before his own compatriots.

A total of 63,000 fans filled the Olympic stadium expecting to see an exhibition match with Cruyff in the leading role. But the Germans "spoiled" the celebrations by winning 8-0! Rummenigge and Breitner hit hat-tricks and Gerd Müller got two in this rout of the former triple European Cup winners. Dutch papers condemned the German tactics of playing with total commitment and will to win "at all costs". A German radio commentator put it rather succintly: "Funny accusation—I always thought that the object of playing a football match, was to win."

Popular

I think he has a point there, but why the Dutch invited a German team in the first place (Germans are not exactly popular in that country), is difficult to understand.

Bayern loaned their former World Cup star Uli Hoeness to the 1.FC Nürnberg who are fighting desperately to leave the relegation zone. Nürnberg, Germany's record champions (nine titles) are heavily in debt; a figure of £450,000 is mentioned. This despite a healthy average attendance of 38,000 per match. It would be a tragedy if this popular club were to be relegated again —both from the sporting and financial angle.

The still competent Uli Hoeness has now been overshadowed by his younger brother Dieter (25), the centre forward of VfB Stuttgart for whom he has been scoring some vital goals lately. For years the big, blond and bustling Dieter had to live in the shadow of the celebrated "Big Brother"—now the roles are reversed.

The DFB is now leading the way in fighting and detecting the use of dope in soccer, although this problem has not yet touched the domestic game, but resulted from the widely publicised incident (the Willie Johnston affair) in the World Cup. As from the 1979-80 season there will be regular controls instituted at selected *Bundesliga* matches to find out if players take dope, or indeed any other stimulants.

This announcement was made by the DFB president Herrmann Neuberger (58), who incidentally was again elected chief of FIFA's World Cup organizing committee for the next world series in 1982 in Spain. Neuberger was praised highly for his work before and during the tournament in Argentina, which made a profit of over £12 million—easily a record. The experience of organising two World Cup competitions should help Neuberger in four years time.

A special mention ought to be made of the newly promoted Darmstadt SV '98'. This club, operating on a modest budget, uses only part-timers. Every player has a steady job and the team trains only in the evenings. Not one of them reaches the current average wage paid to full time professionals in the Bundesliga of £25,000 a year! It would be remarkable if this club could hold its own with the (financial) giants.

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When is a gift professionalism in name to watch

THE £8,000 UEFA fine on Milan and the Scottish FA's subsequent suspensions on John Gordon and linesmen Rollo Kyle and David McCartney came as a major surprise.

Not the fact of Milan's involvement, for there are precedents regarding Italian clubs' relationships with referees, but that FIFA referee Gordon should have come entangled

The facts are these: The Scots were appointed for Milan's UEFA Cup second round second leg against Levsky-Spartak, in Italy. Milan had drawn the first leg 1-1 and were expected to have little difficulty. Before the match Gordon and his linesmen were escorted on a shopping trip by a Milan official.

In a menswear shop, under circumstances that aren't exactly clear, the official ended up paying for goods because the "shops would only accept lire, and the referee and linesmen didn't possess any," according to Milan president Felice Colombo.

The club's sporting director, Sandro Vitali, explained later: "We didn't ask for the money back later because we wouldn't dream of behaving that way to any guest of ours."

Nevertheless UEFA claimed that the clothing involved was worth about £800 per man. And even though Scottish FA secretary Ernie Walker said they thought £300-£400 a more reasonable estimate by British prices, it's still a lot of money.

Colombo naturally denied any attempt to subborn the officials.

"The match was not so important that anything of this kind could take place," he said. "It was just something we do with all visiting referees and linesmen and not an attempt at bribery.

"It was a naive gesture of courtesy. UEFA fined us, I think recognising our good faith but meaning to tell us that we must not have this kind of relationship with referees. We are taking note for the future."

On the face of it I would say that Gordon was the more naive of the parties involved.

After all he's been a FIFA referee since 1967 and should know the score. A wages cashier in a Dundee sweet factory, he was one of the better referees in Argentina during the World Cup, where he controlled the Tunisia-Mexico and Holland-Austria games and was 'fourth man' for that odd match in which both Hungary and France turned out to play in the same colours.

With that background Gordon would have been well aware of UEFA's hospitality rules, which state: "Referees and linesmen must refuse firmly but politely any exaggerated and too generous form of hospitality. Souvenirs and gifts shall not be accepted before the game, only afterwards. Acceptance of valuables is strictly prohibited."

Whether jackets, sweaters and ties count as valuables could, I suppose, be argued. But usually if referees return with any mementos they are in the form of cut glass, pennants or badges. Welsh World Cup referee Clive Thomas is one man who has now decided to refuse even these.

There are three previous cases in which Italian clubs have apparently sailed close to the wind.

In 1964 the Yugoslav referee Tesanic overlooked some rugged football by Internazionale—and above all one bad off-the-ball foul by Luis Suarez on Hoppy Kurrat—in their Champions' Cup semi-final against Borussia Dortmund. Tesanic was later found in Italy on holiday, apparently at Inter's expense. He was suspended by his own federation.

There were two incidents in 1973. In one Greek referee Christos Michas was suspended after leaning heavily in favour of Milan in their Cup-winners' Cup final win over Leeds, in which he sent off Norman Hunter; in the other the Portuguese referee Francisco Lobo was approached by the infamous, mysterious, Deszo Solti, to favour Juventus in their Champions' Cup semi-final with Derby. Lobo reported the matter to UEFA and the inconclusive sequels and ramifications have been enumerated at great length and on a great many occasions by World Soccer colleague Brian Glanville. The only outcome has been that Solti, linked with Inter in 1964, has been declared *persona non grata.*

The Scottish FA felt Milan had been let off very lightly in this case but by UEFA standards the fine was a large one, though Colombo protested: "We presented a silver plate to the president of Levsky and never thought this would induce the opponents into playing less hard to beat us."

But it's not all black and white.

When referees go to a European tie, they turn up in a strange city where they probably don't speak the language and don't know their way around. Accordingly most clubs provide a chaperon in the shape of an official or, very often, a director.

Such matches, particularly in the Latin countries, are not just football but social events. There are presentations and gifts to almost everyone in sight—opposing officials, sometimes players, even journalists. In those circumstances it is hard for any referee or linesman to exhibit the tedious discourtesy of refusing whatever may have been set aside for him.

I know, because I've seen it happen. Referees are only human and after the roastings they endure week in, week out, it makes a rare flattering change to be treated as a celebrity.

In 99.9 per cent of cases the clubs intend no harm for they *expect* the same to happen in the return leg—with the other side footing the bill!

★ ★ ★

ALMOST A year ago I wrote two lengthy articles here explaining how, after 80 years maintaining a great amateur tradition, the Dansk Boldspil Union decided that Denmark should go "non-amateur" i.e. part-time professional.

The first champions of the new era are Vejle, with whom 33-year-old Ulrike Le Fevre achieved the rare feat of a league title in a third country. He had previously won winners' medals in Belgium with Brugge and West Germany with Borussia Moenchengladbach.

Another Vejle veteran was John Hansen, a stalwart with Bayern

A NEW name you might watch out for from Russia Georgi Yartzev, from Spartak Moscow.

He was top scorer in the Soviet season just ended, his 19 goals in 29 games being the basic reason why Spartak, relegated two years ago to their shame, bounced back to finish fifth.

Behind Yartzev, a compact 24-year-old with a remarkable resilience to the slings and arrows of outrageous tackles, came Ramas Shengelia, of champions Dynamo Tbilisi on 15, and Kiev's Oleg Blokhin on 13.

Tbilisi finished with 42 points, four ahead of Kiev and five clear of surprise team Shakter Donetsk. Moscow Dynamo were fourth. Although the Russians are increasing the size of their first division from 16 to 18 clubs next season, there is no reprieve for bottom of the table Dniepr.

They go down, unluckily with 21 points, having finished just one behind Lokomotiv Moscow and Ararat Erevan, who were double-winners not so long back in 1973.

World Soccer Diary... World Soccer Diary...

not a gift . . . Denmark and a new from the USSR

Dynamo Tbilisi players after drawing 0-0 at Lokomotive to clinch the league title in the USSR.

Munich when he was regular right-back in their Champions' Cup-winning sides. Both he and Le Fevre are now retiring while the Danes try to sort out their teething troubles.

The general reaction to part-time soccer, now the season is over, is one of clear disappointment. Players are still going abroad—Flemming Nielsen to Fortuna Köln, Agerback to Hertha, Lindsted to Twente; the national team, reinforced by the exiles, lost to both England and Northern Ireland and were held at home by Bulgaria in the European championship: crowds are down by about 20 per cent; one club has gone bust; another has been fined £2,500 for offering other teams money to lose.

It doesn't sound bright. But I've a feeling that the Danes expected too much too soon. It will take a dozen years before the benefits of going pro are established.

To look at the problems again:

Crowds have been going down for some years. There are many more attractions than football, and a predictable outbreak of over-brutal football hardly helped. Some 39 of the 48 clubs in the top three divisions opened their ranks to paid players, yet only Vejle and Esbjerg, topped the 4,000 crowd averages needed, by most people's estimates, to reach break-even point.

The top-paid players, the Le Fevres of the Danish soccer world, could earn up to £10,000, but they were few and far between. Most pro players were receiving a mere £1,000 to £2,000—and those sums were too much for many clubs.

Horsens of the third division went bust even before the season ended and by a strange twist one of the more solvent first division clubs, Fredrikshavn, were relegated. Their financial salvation came from the fact that they rarely had to pay win bonuses!

Next season the number of paid part-timers will probably be significantly reduced as the Danes start to understand the measure of the problem with which they have to cope and as many clubs admit their dreams of professional grandeur were just that—dreams.

Names in the news . . .

NAMES IN THE NEWS . . . JUAN CARLOS LORENZO, controversial coach of Boca Juniors, has announced he and his partner Jorge Castelli will quit at the end of December since they've won everything possible in their three years . . . RICARDO BOCHINI has been fined by Independiente for refusing to play in a league game against Argentinos Juniors . . . OMAR SIVORI is back as a coach in Argentina, with Velez Sarsfield . . . JOSE YUDICA, having led Quilmes to the Metropolitan title, has switched to Newell's Old Boys . . . CHRISTIAN PIOT, Standard Liege goalkeeper and for years Belgium's No. 1, has been forced to quit by injury . . . FRANCISCO MARINHO has been sold to New York Cosmos by Fluminense for £150,000 plus the receipts from two friendly games . . . ERNST HAPPEL, Holland's morose World Cup manager, has resigned as boss of Brugge . . . JAROSLAV PELC, overlooked for the England game, scored four times in Dukla Prague's 8-0 thrashing of VSS Kosice on the weekend before the Czechs' visit to Wembley . . . PERTTI JANTUNEN, the Finn who plays for Eskilstuna in Sweden, has played a couple of trials for Bristol City, who hope he'll play out the season . . . VELIBOR VASOVIC, one-time left-half for Partizan Belgrade and Ajax, has returned for a second spell as coach to Paris Saint-Germain . . . CHRISTIAN SARRAMAGNA of Saint-Etienne hopes to make his comeback after a broken leg, in February . . . KAZIMIERZ GORSKI has been sacked as boss of Panathinaikos after pressure from the players . . . GEORGE KIRBY has quit his manager's job with Akranes in Iceland . . . HESHMAT MOHADJERANI has quit as Iran's boss . . . HARALD BERG, who finished his career with Bodo Glimt back home in Norway after a spell in Holland with Den Haag, has confirmed his retirement . . . EMILIO GURUCETA, the Spanish referee, is back in action at last after a serious car crash during the summer . . . MARIO ZAGALO has started work with Al-Helal in Saudi Arabia . . . GUNNAR NORDAHL, who made his name as a centre-forward with Norrkoeping before joining Milan, is returning to his original club as coach . . .

SOUTH AMERICA
by Eric Weil

FIRST WIN FOR QUILMES

QUILMES—founded by British settlers in 1887, still with a good proportion of British community members and the oldest club playing professional soccer—won the Metropolitan First Division title for the first time after having its ups and downs which frequently saw them in the second division.

Although uncertainty lasted until the last minute, it was not a real grandstand finish to a poor championship, overshadowed and interrupted by the World Cup and with its strongest teams—champions River Plate and Boca Juniors—repeatedly fielding reserve teams while engaged in the Libertadores Cup and more profitable tours abroad. And the fans also gave their verdict. They stayed away, resulting in what must be the lowest average gates since pro soccer started here in 1931.

On the final day none of the three leading teams with title chances (Quilmes, Boca, Union) faced rivals in contention and it was the same at the other end of the table where two of three clubs in danger of relegation (Platense and Estudiantes BA) met uncommitted teams while the third (Banfield) had a bye. In the end all five won, so that it depended on points earned previously. Banfield and Estudiantes—not to be mixed up with Estudiantes de La Plata of Libertadores Cup fame—went down. The latter's valiant effort in going unbeaten through their last five games came too late, but they never reached first division standard in their one year in the top grade.

Boca Juniors who, their enemies say, earn vital points with doubtful penalties, only had five spot kicks all season, converting three of them. But there was little doubt about the one from which Mouzo scored the goal for the 1-0 win over Newell's Old Boys on the last day. If it had not been for that, their disorganised attack might never have scored. Playing virtually their strongest team for once, they hardly gave one of their better performances, but even a bigger win would not have been enough.

That one point which separated them from champions Quilmes in the end is the one they squandered many times over during the season when fielding reserves to save their best men for the Libertadores Cup. However good their reserves (and those of River Plate) were, these clubs did not put their best effort into winning the title . . . and did not deserve it. It was perhaps a good thing for Argentine soccer that they did not win it.

Only for one minute on the last day did Boca look like possible champions, when Rosario Central took a 2-1 lead against Quilmes in Rosario just after half-time. A minute later Andreucci, Quilmes' top scorer, had equalised with a penalty (his second of the afternoon) and Gaspari scored Quilmes' winner three minutes later. It was only to be expected that if the strongest clubs field weak teams, one of the weaker ones would end up as champions.

Under the circumstances Quilmes deserved the title, because they fought for it and had fewer ups and downs than other possible candidates. In their last vital game they attacked more than they usually do when, after taking the lead they are usually too quick to defend it. A sound defence, a midfield which mixes up the opposition, but does not often do much to get a frequently disorganised and unpenetrative attack going, does not usually add up to a champion team, even with such opportunists as Andreucci and defender Milozzi . . . but this year was different.

River Plate's excellent reserves were one of the revelations as they ended up strongly to put the club into sixth place which, for River, in other times is disappointing. But actually River Plate only fielded a full strength team on a couple of occasions during the championship. Before the World Cup they were without five men in the national squad. Afterwards it was the Libertadores Cup and European tour. As a matter of fact, River's reserve team might have been good enough to challenge for honours, but not their virtual third team which played for over a month while 19 players were on the European tour.

Some of the best soccer however came from midfield . . . from Newell's Old Boys' Berta and Gallego (one of the few World Cup stars to keep up their standard), from Union's Pitarch, Telch and Ribecca as the club finished with a 15-game unbeaten run, occasionally from Independientes Bochini, but above all from Argentinos Juniors' young Maradona—the two latter were both late exclusions from the World Cup squad.

Seventeen-year-old Maradona never seemed to disappear from the game as other leading stars are apt to do, even when marked by two or three players which was often the case. Apart from organising play, he found time to become the championship's top scorer with 22 goals (exactly a third of his team's goals) and he was chiefly responsible for putting his modest team into an honourable fifth place. No wonder the club is arranging all sorts of money raising schemes to hold on to him in the face of at least half a dozen big offers from local clubs and even bigger ones from abroad (which presently can not be entertained as he is in Argentina's junior team squad training for the South American Championships which qualify for the 1979 World Cup.

● *Some First Division Championship facts and figures:*

GOALS: Scored 1054 (2.5 per game). Top Scorers: Independiente 69. Individual: Maradona (Argentinos Jrs) 22. Andreucci (Quilmes) and Outes (Independiente) 21.

PENALTIES: 168 (missed 7). Converted 128—Independiente and All Boys 12. Saved 33—Landaburu (River) 4. Palacios (Quilmes) 3. Not converted 40—Gimnasia La Plata 7. Huracan 5.

PLAYERS SENT OFF: 151 (in 420 games)—Gimnasia La Plata 12. Chacarita Juniors 11. All Boys 10. (Fewest: Colon one).

CHAMPIONSHIPS (professional since 1931) 48: River Plate 12. Boca Juniors 11. Independiente 7. Racing 6. San Lorenzo 5 and one each: Huracan. Chacarita Juniors. Estudiantes de La Plata. Newell's Old Boys. Quilmes.

THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP is now in progress with 12 provincial champions joining the 19 remaining First Division clubs and promotion winner FC Oeste in a 32-team tournament divided in four sections with the top two of each entering the quarter finals. But it was almost not held this year.

After a financially disastrous season—and with no sponsor being found to help cover the higher travelling expenses—some first division clubs were in favour of scrapping it while others wanted to play it as a two-legged knock out. Under this latter system it would have made money, but the provincial non-first division clubs who had prepared all year for the event, would have none of it and were not going to take part in a k.o. The provincials won and the tournament is being played in the usual way and will extend until mid January.

On the eve of the start the internal transfer record was broken when champions Independiente bought Huracan's reserve goalkeeper Hector Baley for 160 million pesos (£100.000)—double the record price paid for midfielder Ricardo Villa (now with Tottenham Hotspur) by Racing Club last year and by Estudiantes de La Plata for forward Fortunato at the start of the season. The other major change was managerial—Omar Sivori, the former Argentine (and Italian) international, became Velez Sarsfield's coach.

Quilmes leading scorer Andreucci scores from the penalty spot to equalise against Rosario Central.

LEFT: Quilmes' Milano (right) beats River Plate defender Saporiti for the ball. RIGHT: Filardo (Quilmes, 7) and Banfield goalkeeper Baglioni (right) run for the ball in an Argentine First Division match.

VENEZUELA: Portuguese champs for fourth year running

PORTUGUESA, now coached by Paraguayan Celino Mora, won the Venezuelan Professional League for the fourth year running with one match to go and Estudiantes de Merida are vice-champions for the third straight year, but there was not much in it.

Portuguesa beat Estudiantes 1-0 in the six-team final round's first leg with a goal from Paraguayan Pascual Peralta six minutes from the end. When the two teams met again on the last day, Portuguesa had already won the title, but Estudiantes reversed the result to finish a point behind.

Leading scorers in the 10-game final round were Brazilian Cosme de Souza (Galicia) with six goals, followed by Uruguayan Jose Chiazzaro (Estudiantes) and Paraguayan Pascual Peralta (Portuguesa) with five, but the growing popularity of the game was shown by a new record gate of 18,000 when the country's most popular club, Galicia (who finished third) beat Estudiantes 1-0 in Caracas.

URUGUAY: Who is champ?

PENAROL and Defensor finished the Major League championship at the top with 15 points each, but Penarol claim the title on goal average, while Defensor say that a play-off has to be staged. Both say they base their claims on existing rules and the Uruguayan FA will have to decide.

But a well attended playoff would do neither club any harm. A recent investigation by the FA has come up with the startling fact that Uruguayan pro soccer has lost close on two million dollars in the last 15 years . . . a lot for a country of less than three million inhabitants where soccer seems to be the great passion. Clubs have only avoided bankrupty, the FA report says, by continually selling their best players abroad.

COLOMBIA: Semi-final round not a success

THE "Finalizacion" Championship ended with America and Millionarios from group A and Cristal Caldas and Atletico Junior from group B qualifying for the eight team semi-final round, together with Nacional and Deportivo Cali who were the top two of the "Apertura" championship and Cucuta and Santa Fe the other two clubs to obtain most points in both championships.

For once a Colombian player, Juan Mora of Millionarios, finished as top scorer of the "Finalizacion" with 15 goals, but in the "Apertura" team mate Juan Irigoyen, an Argentine, had topped the table with 19. For the "Finalizacion" 51 foreign players had been registered by the 14 clubs—46 Argentines, four Paraguayans and one Uruguayan—but more are on the way. Independiente Medellin, one of six clubs eliminated before the semi-final stage, signed Peruvian World Cup players Hugo Sotil and Jaime Velasquez at a reported total of around 200,000 dollars from Alianza Lima for next season. The two will however continue to play for Alianza until the end of the season in Peru.

The eight-team semi-final round, divided into two sections with the top two of each going into the final round, was held for the first time this year to increase gate takings, but it did not prove to be a financial success. Deportivo Cali and Nacional from group A and Santa Fe and Millionarios from group B reached the final round, while 1977 champions Atletico Junior were eliminated.

Elsewhere . . .

IN BRAZIL, Corintians won the first round of the Sao Paulo State League and the City of Sao Paulo Cup by beating Santos 1-0 in the final round match between section winners.

Palhina scored the only goal 10 minutes from the end in front of a 120,000 crowd at the Morumbi stadium. . . . Earlier Alcino, who scored both goals for Portuguesa in their 2-1 win over Juventus, was found to have played under the influence of drugs and suspended for 60 days. . . . State championships are currently in progress all over Brazil.

IN ECUADOR, Barcelona, who just escaped relegation in the season's first championship and since then engaged Peruvian World Cup coach Marcos Calderón, are sharing the lead with champions Nacional in the season's second championship.

IN CHILE, Palestino, who took over the lead from newly promoted Cobreola before the half-way stage, won the First Division title by four points with Cobreola second.

IN PARAGUAY, Olimpia won the First Division title by beating Sol de America 1-0 in the second leg of the final when Enrique Villalba scored eight minutes from the end after the first leg had ended 0-0.

Olimpia thus qualified to represent Paraguay in the 1979 Libertadores Cup while the winner of the national championship (in progress at press time) will be the country's other cup team.

Roberto Mouzo, central defender of Boca Juniors.

Player Portrait

by Keir Radnedge

DECISION TIME FOR SULSER?

CLAUDIO SULSER might have been forgiven if, on the morning of November 2, he had treated himself to a few extra hours in bed. After all, the previous night his two goals had sent Grasshoppers Zurich into the Champions' Cup quarter finals.

But instead of relaxing with the laurels of victory over Real Madrid he was up at seven in the morning to drive the 60 miles to St Gallen and attend a law lecture.

For Sulser, despite heading for Switzerland's Footballer of the Season award, is a young man with his head screwed on.

"I've been a full-time professional for a year now," he explained, "but I also need to do something to assure my future. Hopefully, football permitting, I will have qualified in four years' time."

In the meanwhile Sulser has a right to lay down the laws about goalscoring, for he has hit nine goals in the Champions' Cup so far this season and is in with an outside chance—if Grasshoppers get the luck of the draw—to threaten Jose Altafini's record of 14 goals which has stood since 1963.

The Italian connection wouldn't be lost on Sulser. Although his parents are Swiss-German, he was brought up in the Italian region of that triple combination country, at Sorengo.

Born on October 8, 1955, Sulser's first football steps were with a youth team at Mendrisio near Lugano, where he was spotted by second division Vevey. He joined them in 1974, moving on two years later to Grasshoppers for about £8,000.

The gifts on which he is now capitalising were already there in prospect: good control, speed off the mark, a good shot with either foot—though mainly his right—and a willingness to fall back and help out in midfield and defence when the going gets tough.

Barely noticed

In fact, that last quality is seen by some of Grasshoppers fans today as a fault. They claim Sulser could score many more goals if he were satisfied to lie upfield waiting for his team-mates to bring the ball forward. But Sulser claims that it is the space he can create by falling deep which gives him the chance of using his acceleration to create scoring chances.

Not that he's found it easy at Grasshoppers. When he joined in the summer of 1976 his arrival was barely noticed alongside the signing of Günter Netzer, the great West German schemer who was winding down his career after those years with Borussia Moenchengladbach and Real Madrid.

Grasshoppers finished fourth in the league to earn a UEFA Cup place but Sulser had a mixed time. He started in the first team, was then dropped—along with several seniors such as Rudi Elsener, now with Eintracht Frankfurt—finally returning in the spring of 1977 not only to secure a role as right flank striker with Grasshoppers, but also in the Swiss national team.

His debut wasn't a happy one. He appeared as substitute in the 4-0 home defeat by France in April 1977 and it took five matches before he scored his first goal, in the 1-0 World Cup qualifying win over Norway. It wasn't a vital game for the Swiss. They were already out; it was the Norwegians who had to win by three clear goals to stand a chance of edging out Sweden. Sulser's strike killed them off.

He now totals a dozen internationals, with his most recent appearance for Switzerland being in the odd unofficial game with Italy B in Ferrara. The same day the Italians were in Czechoslovakia with their senior side, but their B team were more than enough for a Swiss team playing nine of the men who had appeared shortly before in the 3-1 European championship defeat by Holland.

Sulser was touted as the great star, but in fact he had a quiet game, and praised Lazio's Lionello Manfredonia afterwards as "the best stopper I've ever played against—not only because he is good in defence, but because he is constructive too."

It was last season that Sulser started to really make his name. Three goals in four minutes in one league game was a start; then he was a key figure as Grasshoppers reached the semi-finals of the UEFA Cup. He scored only twice however—once in the 5-1 win over Inter Bratislava, and once with a fabulous goal on the turn, in a 4-1 win against Dynamo Tbilisi.

So far this season, despite some disagreements with West German boss Helmut Johannsen, Sulser has improved his scoring record by leaps and bounds.

In the Champions' Cup first round, first leg he hit five goals in a 25-minute spell between the 39th and 64th minute in the 8-0 win against Valetta of Malta; he scored from a penalty in the 5-3 second leg success; and then scored all three goals in the second round against Madrid.

In doing so Sulser gave rugged Madrid stopper Gregorio Benito a nightmare tie.

First, in the Madrid game, it was Sulser who just got the touch as both men spurted to meet a centre from Egli. Sulser's boot got to the ball before Benito and the ball slipped past Miguel Angel for the equaliser at 1-1. Madrid scored twice more for a 3-1 win, but Sulser's opportunism proved that this isn't enough now for teams visiting Grasshoppers.

After only eight minutes of the second leg he again beat Benito, this time in the air, to head in Traber's corner, and there were only two minutes remaining when poor Benito headed out a Bauer cross to the feet of his rival, who immediately rifled a hard low drive back past Miguel Angel to send Grasshoppers through on the away goals rule.

The irony of it all is that Sulser's boyhood dream, and one which remains almost as vivid now, is that one day he may play for Madrid!

Why?

"You know the impressions made on you as a child tend to last for a long time. When I was a boy the name Real Madrid *meant* everything about European football. In many ways, it still does and I'd love to play for them one day. Though after I've put them out of the Champions' Cup I'm not sure how keen they'd be on me!"

What are your prospects of moving from Grasshoppers?

'I'll be available for transfer at the season's end. My contract with Grasshoppers is a three-year one and it expires in June of 1979. Then I'll be free to join whoever may want me. That's how it works in Switzerland. At the end of your contract a player is a free agent.

"You can almost choose your own team. All that remains for the clubs is to fix a price. If they don't agree then the league has the authority to impose a figure. That's been the state of affairs since the players organised themselves a couple of years ago."

You won't stay at Grasshoppers?

'No, when my contract has expired I think I'll be leaving."

Perhaps for Italy—after all, you speak the language and are from Ticino?

"That depends on the offers and the importance of the clubs. I'd like to go on playing in the Champions' Cup. These European competitions are the ones that give me the biggest thrill. But I'd rather stay where I am than go to some provincial team. Also, I would have to consider the fact that the lira is a weak currency, while the Swiss franc is strong. Perhaps joining an Italian team wouldn't be all that profitable."

Have you received any offers yet?

"No, not yet. But I'd like to play abroad, it would be very interesting both from the personal and the playing point of view. You know since I've been a boy I've been fascinated by Italian football. In Switzerland where I lived as a boy everyone would say that Italy was the country where they played the best football. But I'm afraid the Italians don't seem to think much of Swiss football and the chances of one of their clubs signing a Swiss are fairly remote.

"They don't realise . . . there's a good standard in Switzerland and our results in Europe have proved it. No-one gave us a chance against Real Madrid, but then we achieved that miracle so it proves Swiss clubs can't be all that far behind."

Your background is Swiss-Italian, is there any Italian team you are particularly interested in?

"No I don't follow any one team now. When I was younger I was a fan of Internazionale. In Ticino of course everyone is interested in Italian football and I was impressed by the Inter team of the mid-1960s who won everything.

"They were a symbol of the new wave, after Real Madrid had gone over the hill. My hero was Mario Corso. He was such a great individual, and I've always liked players with his style. Maybe I'm a bit like Corso . . .".

Maybe.

Every season Swiss football seems to throw up one new player who achieves instant fame and then subsides to make way for the new meteor. This year it's Sulser; last year it was Elsener; before that Franco Cuccinotta and going back further Rene Botteron and earlier the likes of Philipe Pottier.

Sulser is about to reach a crossroads which will decide whether he can establish himself at international level, or slip into the part-time shadows.

by BRIAN MARSHALL

John Barnwell, Wolves' new manager (left) talking with Norman Bell, Mel Eves, Derek Parkin and Brian Garvey (coach).

Bachelor Barnwell to restore Wolves?

IT is a sad fact that despite a great deal of effort Wolves have failed to recapture the glory of the 50's. They have had their isolated moments but they have struggled to regain the success they achieved under the control of manager Stan Cullis.

His sacking in the early 60's marked the end of an era and even to this day Stan Cullis says that it is most difficult to forgive and forget what happened.

He revealed these thoughts in a religious programme a few days after he had received a pace-maker for a heart complaint. The setting was not so surprising as would first appear because his son is in the ministry and he is of the Christian faith.

Very few managers will be able to compare with the success achieved by Cullis, who had the great fortune to produce a flow of great talent at Molineux which was in turn inspired by the Midland club's success.

Cullis has long since left the Molineux scene although he has business interests in the town. He is, nevertheless, a little embarrassed by his old club's current plight.

Appointment

The man chosen to restore Wolves is John Barnwell, a 38-year-old bachelor, who was manager of Peterborough United, a lowly Third Division club.

He impressed the Wolves board with his general manner and attitude. They feel he has the right sort of approach to currently one of the most difficult jobs in football—saving Wolves from going back into the Second Division for the second time in three years.

Barnwell walked out of Peterborough on a matter of principle. The former Nottingham Forest and Arsenal forward thought the directors should have provided him with the necessary cash to sign some new players to halt their decline to the foot of the Third Division.

This was not forthcoming so he packed his bags and left the London Road club to emerge as the favourite for the Wolves vacancy despite the fact that Peterborough were then eighth from bottom of the Third Division—a fact no one has even commented upon since Barnwell's appointment.

Despite this record Barnwell's services were in big demand from Blackburn, Sunderland and the American club, Philadelphia Fury. In fact he turned down the American offer, which was reputed to be worth £200,000, so that he could take over at Wolves.

Candidate

In fact, he announced on television at Saturday lunch-time that he would be in a new job by the following Monday. Only an hour or so previously Wolves had interviewed Derek Dougan for the vacancy to appease public demand and later that evening the club chairman, Harry Marshall, stated on television that the old Wolves favourite was still a candidate for the job.

But true to his word Barnwell was Wolves manager in a very low-key appointment. He was at Molineux at 8.30 and an hour later was appointed the new manager.

Wolves, in fact, were a little surprised themselves by the quickness of the appointment but acknowledged the keen spirit of Barnwell to get on with a most difficult job.

Speaking to him after he was appointed Barnwell admitted that he had a very hard task on his hands and that he was convinced his first task was to restore the players' confidence.

He had watched them the previous match and said: "If this was an improvement on their previous form then they must have been playing very badly in a lot of their matches."

Barnwell's arrival had an immediate impact because they chalked up a 1-0 win at Bristol City the following day and only lost 1-0 at Spurs the following Saturday when goalkeeper Paul Bradshaw injured his hand.

This was the kind of accident Barnwell could not insure against but had to accept as one of the unforeseen incidents that make or mar a match.

Coach

In his spells as coach with Hereford and Peterborough United he was noted for his defensive approach—a policy which got him the sack at Hereford.

Relating what happened, Barnwell said: "The decision was taken by the board of directors while the manager, Colin Addison was away on holiday. Before I left Hereford I said: 'Thank you Mr. Chairman I'll pass you on the way back up'."

He was then Peterborough's coach for four and a half years under the managership of Noel Cantwell and did a very good job with Peterborough narrowly missing promotion last season to the Second Division on goal average.

He also put £96,000 back into the club from successful transfer deals but when he wanted some cash himself for new players it was not forthcoming and he walked out to take over at Molineux.

Barnwell believes in organisation and discipline. "What I say goes," he said. "Anyone who wants to work with me for Wolves is welcome. Anyone who doesn't can put his coat on and leave."

Strong words from a young manager who has also recruited the services of the Shrewsbury Town manager, Richie Barker, as his assistant and chief coach.

"Running a top club like Wolves is too much for one person," claims Barnwell. "This is why I feel my partnership with Richie Barker will prove successful and put Wolves back on the right track where they belong."

SWITZERLAND
by Arthur Rotmil

Karl Odermatt (right) phasing out his illustrious career in Switzerland with Young Boys is pictured with Sandro Mazzola.

Goodmonth for Zurich

IT HAS been a marvellous month for the clubs from Zurich: The champions Grasshoppers were basking in their sensational triumph over Real Madrid in the European Cup, while their local rivals FC Zurich leaped to the top of the First Division.

Under their new manager, the Yugoslav Zlatko Cajkovski the FCZ started badly, gaining only one point from the first three matches and slumped to second from bottom. But then came a series of eleven games without defeat and for the first time they took over the leadership.

The 2-0 away win against the surprise team of the season, St. Gallen, did the trick, whilst Servette were crushed 4-1 by Basel. In the constant feud between the German-Swiss and the Latins, the "Germans" were coming out on top—five of the six leading clubs were from the German-speaking part of the country.

As a result of this exciting race for the championship stakes, gates have been improving steadily. In season 1976-77 the average attendance at a First Division match at the corresponding stage of the season, was 6,557; last term it dropped to 5,861—now it rose to 6,514.

The international successes of Grasshoppers and Servette, both European cup quarter-finalists, have raised the image of club football here, but the national team has lost a lot of good will, following two disappointing displays.

Under the guise of a representative XI, the Swiss lost to Italy 'B' 1-0 at Ferrara.

But what incensed the fans watching this game on TV was the almost total lack of effort and application from their internationals. Angry letters were flooding the sports editors' desks, for after all, this game was supposed to have been a trial for the European Championship tie v. Poland.

Two legs

Not surprisingly Switzerland lost to Poland 2-0 in Wroclaw, where once again they played some good football in midfield, but failed in attack. Even the celebrated Claudio Sulser (Grasshoppers) could not recapture his recent goal scent. Sulser, who scored all three goals in the two legs against Real Madrid, is currently the leading scorer in this season's European Cup tournament with nine goals.

The Poles in the first stage of rebuilding did not show anything like their usual form, even from the recent World Cup series, but it was enough to overcome the timid Swiss. On the same day the "Under-21" side beat Luxembourg 3-0, despite losing Hansruedi Schär, one of the scorers, who was sent off for another foul, having already received one caution.

The Swiss media, very concerned over the national team's lack of success, are now asking: what can be done to improve the national side? It is clear that the days of Roger Vonlanthen as manager are numbered. He does appear to lack the ability to motivate his players, to instil some definite tactical plan, he doesn't appear to "read" the opposition too well and he is just too nice, not wanting to upset anybody.

This quality is quite admirable, but hardly likely to conjure up success. The national team reflects the strength of the country's football at all levels, and so, no wonder that the Swiss are saying: "We are not as bad as our national team's results make it appear."

The fine run of the leading clubs in international competitions has posed a problem of dates for them and the national side. The Football Federation (SFV) has already been forced to call off the proposed trip to America at the end of January because of organising difficulties. Now it seems that on March 20 the quarter-finals of the SFV-Cup are due to be staged—a day before the European Cup quarter-finals, second legs. Should Grasshoppers or Servette get that far in the Swiss Cup, then new dates will have to be found for these ties.

Additional problems have arisen because two internationals are scheduled in March. A friendly v. Bulgaria on the 14th and a European Championship tie v. Holland on the 28th. The SFV have certainly overloaded that month with their own fixtures, probably not counting on the European progress of their clubs. In addition, Switzerland also stage a League Cup tournament, the only country on the Continent to do so. The draw for the semi-finals which will take place on February 25, produced the pairings Servette v. Grasshoppers and Neuchatel Xamax v. Basel.

It looks like another busy season for the champions Grasshoppers, who last term played altogether 73 matches, the first Swiss club to have completed such a mammoth programme.

Their first priority now is to qualify for the play-off pool, by finishing in the top six in the League. Otherwise they cannot defend their title.

Swiss football has closed down in December for the enforced winter break when snow and ice turn the attention of the sports fans here to skiing and ice hockey, as well as other winter sports. In January the soccer clubs will start light training indoors, some will venture into warmer climates to prepare for the second half of the season.

The biggest problems face Grasshoppers and Servette who will start their European Cup quarter-finals in March with just one or two competitive matches behind them. Their greatest hope for success is in being drawn against teams from countries where the football also must close down for three months.

Leading goalscorers (after 15 matches): Labhart (St. Gallen) 11; Risi (FC Zürich) 10; Stomeo (St. Gallen) 9.

STONES THE BUILDERS REJECTED

by BRIAN GLANVILLE

PAOLO ROSSI, Garry Birtles, Walter Novellino, Bobby Russell. Stones, you might say, that the builder rejected. All players who have been greatly in the public eye this season. All players whose careers have by no means followed the smooth and gilded path which seems so often to be traversed by the stars of today.

Thus, Garry Birtles was playing non-League football for Long Eaton when, in December, 1976, Nottingham Forest signed him almost on a whim. Last season he didn't play a single First Division game for the club, this season when it was made known that Forest would sell Peter Withe his name, as a possible successor, was never mentioned, yet here he is, a hero of the European Cup, a scorer alike against Liverpool and AEK, a player to be watched, respected and admired, for all his apparent ungainliness.

Bobby Russell was turned down as a boy by Sunderland, went back to Scotland to play in junior football, was picked up by Rangers, and is now playing only his second season in League football. Yet he has been a dazzling success in Rangers' midfield this season in the European Cup, and scored the winning goal against PSV in Eindhoven; having, in the closing minutes of the first leg at Ibrox, brought a stupendous save from their reserve goalkeeper.

Walter Novellino, 25 years old now, cost Milan a massive fee when they signed him from Perugia last summer, yet he was turned down by Torino, who gave him but a single League game, and drifted around in the shallows of the Third Division, Serie C, before he finally got his chance and made his name with Perugia.

Paolo Rossi was virtually spurned by Juventus, to whom he may well in due course return; at a huge price. They never entirely relinquished their hold on him—till Lanerossi Vicenza outbid them with what Rossi himself described to me when I recently visited him up there as "*una mezza pazzia*," a semi-madness, putting a one and a half million pound figure on their half share last May and thus wresting him from a Juventus reluctant, in the economic climate, to compromise their Fiat and Agnelli family backers by bidding too high.

Rossi was farmed out to Como, then a First Division club, where he did little or nothing, and took wing only when he went into the Second Division, Serie B, with Lanerossi, finishing the leading scorer, and helping them to promotion. Even then, Juventus foolishly preferred Virdis of Cagliari in the transfer market to him.

As for Novellino, who was one of the few Italian players really to do well in the B international against the Swiss A team, at Ferrara, last November, he was shuffled in his earlier youth from one club to another. Brought up till the age of 11 in Brazil, though born in 1953 in the province of Avellino, he returned to be picked up by Torino, who promptly lent him to another northern club in Legnano. No bad place to start; that was where another noted late developer, Gigi Riva, began his career. Legnano were a third division, Serie C, club then. Novellino made his debut as long ago as 1971, as an 18 year old, and did well enough to be recalled by Torino, the following season. They gave him just one First Division game; December 11, 1972, against Naples. He had a goodish game, was promptly dropped, and the following season allowed to move to Cremonese of Cremona, another Serie C team.

Who would then have forecast the dazzling career of the years to come? Cremonese, at the end of the season, sold him to the Tuscan Serie C club Empoli, by which time he could scarcely have envisaged First Division football; let alone the celebrity and value he's attained. But Perugia picked him up from Empoli, and in his three seasons with them, this highly gifted player, with his admirable ball control, his flair for goals, took wing. Milan paid a fortune for him; and there were those who felt he should have figured in the Italian World Cup team, in Argentina.

★ ★ ★

Talking of Italy, and specifically of Rome, I was amused on my recent return there to follow the fortunes and passions of the Roma fans. The team was playing badly, Giagnoni, the manager, was sacked, and the fans, on the eve of the derby game with Lazio, threatened to desert their Curva Sud, or South Bank, in sign of protest against the poor results.

There was, believe it or believe it not, a solemn meeting of the supporters' clubs, just after the appointment of Ferruccio Valcareggi as the new manager, which resulted in their deciding that they would not, after all, leave the "glorious Curva Sud" to the Lazio fans, but would be there to support their own Roma.

Confronted by such pomposity, such self-importance, what could one do but lay down one's arms in incredulity? That the Roman Press should report the deliberations of the fans without an ounce of irony merely added to the sense of comic opera. It was hard not to recall the old, *romanesco*, put down for those who give themselves airs: "*Aoh! Ma chi sei?*" Who are *you?*

For once, however, the Roman sense of irony wasn't working. The Roma fans had convinced themselves that, far from being merely peripheral, they held the centre of the stage. So it is left for me, a mere Englishman, to ask them, "*Aoh! Ma chi sei?*" Who, indeed?

★ ★ ★

It was nice to hear the Russians squealing, after FIFA's renewed insistence that no World Cup players figure in the 1980 Olympic Games soccer tournament, in Moscow.

Prejudice against the East Europeans! squealed Tass, the Russian news agency. One was reminded again of what was possibly the only joke ever made by the deplorable Avery Brundage, President of the Olympic Committee. The old story goes that Sir Stanley Rous once remarked to him that the huge majority of footballers were amateurs, to which Brundage replied that doubtless this was true; the pity was that none of them played in the Olympics.

The Russians and the rest of the East Europeans are, as we know, cheats. They've been cheating for years; in Olympic soccer, in athletics, in what you will. East German girl swimmers gobble drugs and look like men—how splendid to see them swept aside in 1978 by American swimmers who actually looked like girls. Iron Curtain countries cynically use the Olympic Games tournament as a proving ground for their World Cup teams.

Not to allow World Cup players to take part in that tournament is in fact no more than a placebo. The tournament should not take place at all. Indeed, the compromise of excluding World Cup players is some twenty years old. After the 1958 World Cup, its application led directly to the elimination of Russia by Bulgaria from the 1960 Olympic tournament, the Russians having competed in Sweden in 1958, the Bulgars not.

Whether the Olympics themselves should now take place at all is another and subsuming matter. My own feeling is that they shouldn't. As for the Olympic soccer tournament, it remains a grubby farce. With or without World Cup players.

★ ★ ★

I have been somewhat harsh about Sir Stanley Rous' autobiography, so I shall return to it to praise . . . and to correct.

There's an excellent and chilling wartime anecdote about a *soi disant* Norwegian international footballer who suddenly turned up in England with apparently good credentials, asking for a coaching job. Rous was on the committee which interviewed him, after he had been passed as "clean" by the intelligence (intelligence?) authorities. A few shrewd questions by Rous established beyond reasonable doubt that the man was a fraud, and a probable spy. Rous reported his findings to the Proper Quarters; and was snubbed. Some months later a propaganda broadcast by Lord Haw Haw from Berlin revealed that the man was indeed a spy—as Rous had realised—and had returned as he had arrived; by Nazi submarine.

★ ★ ★

As one who was present at the wretched Keegan Affair at Belgrade Airport in 1974, may I straighten the record?

Keegan's version of what happened is totally correct. He did NOT "dance on the conveyor belt" at the airport. Alec Lindsay, his team mate, was the chief "culprit" in this harmless exercise. Keegan was sitting with his back to the affair, unwittingly in a "forbidden" part of the entrance hall.

A Yugoslav official came up and began aggressively shoving him in the back. Keegan turned round to make forceful protest. The Yugoslav now began trying to tear his parcels of gifts out of his hands. In marched a huge grey uniformed Yugoslav policeman who hauled Keegan off his feet and, with the help of the other man, marched him away.

He was beaten up, and returned to us much the worse for wear, tearful, with a bleeding nose. Those who were not at the airport that day and are not prepared to take the slightest trouble to discover what really happened should keep a decent silence.

NORTH AMERICA

by Colin Jose

COSMOS ON TOUR

UP until this year it has always seemed that after the end of the season the North American Soccer League has disappeared into the locker room to re-emerge again in the spring wearing a new outfit. However, 1978 has proved the exception with three NASL clubs undertaking tours outside of the United States.

The most notable and well publicised of these tours has involved the New York Cosmos, but the Washington Diplomats and the Detroit Express also made trips although much shorter than the Cosmos trip which lasted into late November. In addition of course the Cosmos played three games at home following their success in Soccer Bowl 78.

Of the three home games the first was undoubtedly the most interesting involving a team made up of players who had played in the World Cup finals earlier in the summer and named for this occasion the "World Cup All Stars". This game attracted 50,757 to Giants Stadium in New Jersey and ended in a 2-2 draw. Roberto Rivelino gave the All Stars the lead, Giorgio Chinaglia equalised for the Cosmos and then the Mexican Cuellar made it 2-1 before Seninho tied it up with less than three minutes remaining.

The team representing the World Cup stars was Leao (Brazil): Olguin (Argentina), Oscar (Argentina), Rijsbergen (Holland) and Tarantini (Argentina): Boniek (Poland), Gallego (Argentina), Rivelino (Brazil): Lato (Poland), Cubillas (Peru), Rep (Holland). The substitutes were Eskandarian (Iran) for Tarantini, Deyna (Poland) for Boniek, Batista (Argentina) for Gallego, Cueto (Peru) for Rivelino, Temime (Tunisia) for Lato, Cuellar (Mexico) for Cubillas and Danaifar (Iran) for Rep.

For this game the Cosmos included Johann Cruyff who was making his debut for the club with a total of 16 Cosmos players all told seeing some action. The World Cup team was coached by Cesar Menotti who oddly enough once played in New York for the old New York Generals under Freddie Goodwin in 1968.

Following the draw with the World Cup team the Cosmos then went on to lose 1-3 to Atletico Madrid and hold Boca Juniors to a 2-2 tie in the first leg of the Cosmos Invitational Americas Cup, before departing for Europe.

Before leaving for Europe a number of players voiced their displeasure at such a tough schedule after a season of 30 games squeezed into five months with all the extensive travelling involved in playing across a continent the size of North America and certainly the Cosmos didn't seem too interested in playing when they were humiliated by Bayern Munich 7-1 in the tour opener.

But more than anything this game showed up the difference in speed between the European game at the top level and the speed at which the game is played in the NASL. The speed of the game in North America is much slower than in Europe and it is just this lack of pace that hurts many promising young Canadian and American players at the international level. If Canada or the United States are ever to become powers in international soccer one of the things they must do is expose their teams and players to the speed of the European game far more often.

After their lopsided loss to Bayern the Cosmos went on to beat Brescia 2-1, then suffer a 6-1 hammering from VfB Stuttgart, and a 0-2 loss to West German Second Division club Freiburger, before holding Chelsea to a 1-1 draw. The Cosmos then went on to Madrid where they gained revenge for their earlier defeat by Atletico in New York by winning 3-2 and this was followed by a 5-3 win over AEK Athens.

In Belgrade where the American club played Red Star the teams scored ten goals with the Cosmos on the end of a 6-4 defeat and then in the final game of the European part of the tour they went under 0-2 to Galatasaray in Istanbul.

But this was just the beginning; after a few days rest it was on to South America opening in Guayaquil, Ecuador with a game against the Barcelona club. Before 50,000 fans Chinaglia gave the Cosmos the lead in the 41st minute of a game in which the lights went out for 40 minutes. With one minute remaining Oyola of Barcelona equalised with a hotly disputed goal. During the course of the game Chinaglia, Nelsi Morais and Erol Yasin of the Cosmos were sent off.

Then it was on to Argentina to lose 1-2 in Tucuman, draw 1-1 in Belgrano before beating Independiente Rivadavia 2-1 in Mendoza. In the second leg of the Cosmos Invitational Americas Cup Boca Juniors triumphed 4-2 in Mar del Plata to win the trophy on a 6-4 aggregate. The Cosmos wound up their tour with games against Car in La Paz, Bolivia and Vilanova in Goiania, Brazil.

Before starting out for South America the Cosmos announced the signing of Iranian international Andranik Eskandarian and shortly after the tour ended the signing of Brazilian international Francisco Marinho.

While the Cosmos were touring Europe the Washington Diplomats were on the other side of the world playing in the 8th President's Cup in South Korea. Drawn in the same group as the national teams from South Korea, Malaysia and Bahrain the Diplomats lost 3-2 to the Koreans in Seoul, beat Bahrain 3-2 in Pusan and Malaysia 2-0 in Teagu., to finish second in their group.

In the quarter finals the Washington club beat a Mexican team 3-0, and in the semi-final beat the national team of Morocco 3-1. This put the Diplomats in the final against the South Korean national team before over 35,000 fans in Seoul with the game being televised before an estimated viewing audience of more than 35 million people across the Orient.

South Korea were 3-0 up at half time but goals from Bobby Stokes (ex-Southampton) and Canadian international Mike Bakic made it 3-2 before the Koreans came surging back to score three more times.

Diplomats coach Gordon Bradley was obviously disappointed in the 6-2 loss saying: "The Korean team was a far superior team to us today and certainly deserves the title. The experience in this tournament was well worth the trip and our second place finish is more than any of us had ever hoped for."

Meanwhile the Detroit Express opened their tour in Austria beating Second Division LASK Linz 3-2 and another Second Division club Donau 3-0, before holding Austria Salzburg to a 2-2 tie. Then it was on to Kuwait where Arabic beat them 1-0 and Qadsia 4-2 finally to wind up the tour a 1-1 tie with Grasshoppers in Zurich. Keith Furphy, son of the Express coach remained in Europe where he is playing for LASK Linz. George Best and Bobby Moore were guest players for the Express on this trip, but of course Best left the team before they went to Kuwait.

New York Cosmos players at a training session before their match with Chelsea at Stamford Bridge.

Kissinger President of the NASL . . .

Henry Kissinger (left) the new President of the NASL with Phil Woosnam.

Michels joins L.A. Aztecs

RINUS MICHELS will coach the Los Angeles Aztecs in 1979.

The 50-year-old Michels brings to the Aztecs an international record of success that is second to none. He is acknowledged around the world for his innovative soccer techniques and for his ability to build a winning team in a very short period of time.

"In October I said that we would settle for nothing less than the best when it came to a coach, and in Rinus Michels I think we now have the best coach in the world," said Aztecs' President Larry Friend. "I dare say that this feeling is shared by the majority of the people in the international soccer community.

"This is not only a major step forward for the Aztecs, but for the NASL (North American Soccer League) as well. Never before has the league had a coach with such an international reputation. In many ways this is as important to the NASL as the acquisition of Pele, because Rinus has the ability to share his coaching brilliance with coaches throughout America, which will greatly enhance the growth and future of soccer in the United States."

Michels, who spent last season coaching Barcelona to victory in the Spanish Cup, was equally enthusiastic about his role in the advancement of soccer in America.

"After so many years in European soccer, I am looking forward to the challenge of coaching soccer in a new climate with new people," he said. "My impression is that the American youth will be completely captivated by soccer in the years ahead and that soccer in this country can eventually be played on a level with the best in the world.

"I think that with my European background and coaching experience, I can help in the growth of the sport in America."

A native of Amsterdam, Holland, Michels has only coached two teams in his professional career, Ajax of Amsterdam and Barcelona. In both cases, he inherited relatively weak teams and quickly made them winners.

With Ajax, he took over a team that was ranked 17th in an 18-team league, and in his 7½ year tenure guided them to four league championships, two domestic cup wins and two appearances in the finals of the European Championship (European Cup), which they won in 1970-71. At Barcelona he again inherited a poor team and in six years built them into a powerhouse that won one league championship and twice went to the National finals, winning the Cup last season.

Despite his impressive records with Ajax and Barcelona, Michels is probably best known for coaching the 1974 Dutch National team to the World Cup finals, during which time he introduced a revolutionary style of soccer. It was the first time in the country's history that it had reached the finals, and although the Dutch eventually lost to West Germany, 2-1, it was Michels' exciting "total soccer" concept that caught the fancy of the world.

Michels began his professional coaching career with Ajax in 1964-65, taking over at mid-season. The team was ranked at the bottom of the league, but under Michels' guidance rallied to finish the season in fifth place. The next three seasons (1966-68) Michels directed the team to a record three straight league championships. The second of those titles was especially impressive in that Ajax scored a record 122 goals (a record that still stands) and conceded only 34 goals in 34 games. In the European Cup that year Michels gained international recognition by defeating a heavily favoured Liverpool team, 5-1, in the second round.

Captured

In 1969-70 Ajax won the Cup and went to the finals of the European Cup, the first time in history that a Dutch team had gone that far. They were denied the title that year (losing to Milan), but captured the Cup the next season (1970-71), when they defeated Penathinaikos, 2-0.

Michels went to Barcelona for the next four seasons (1972-75) and his record of success continued. Prior to Michels' arrival, the team had been through 12 coaches in 14 years. Under Michels, Barcelona won the league championship and went to the Cup finals in 1973-74, the first time in 16 years that the team had reached either level of success.

Following a one-year return to Ajax (1975-76), Michels went back to coach Barcelona, where he has been for the past two seasons.

At the 1978 World Cup, Michels' served on the prestigious Technical Committee to study the games and make recommendations. He was one of only four coaches in the world asked to serve on the seven-man committee. In this capacity he saw his former team, Holland, compete for the World Championship. The majority of the players had played for Michels in the 1974 World Cup, and his influence was still very much in evidence.

Foremost

Another of Michels' great claims to fame is having been the first and foremost coach of Johan Cruyff, regarded as the top soccer player in the game today. Cruyff joined the Ajax team in 1965-66, and spent the next six years playing under Michels. Two years after Michels left Ajax to coach Barcelona, Cruyff joined him, and the two turned the fortunes of Barcelona around just as they did in Amsterdam.

An outstanding soccer player in his own right, Michels grew up in Amsterdam and played 12 years (1946-58) with Ajax, twice being selected to play on the National team. He is a graduate of the Academy for Physical Education in Amsterdam, and spent 10 years working as a physical education teacher. Seven of those years were spent teaching in a special institution for deaf children.

Married, Rinus and his wife "Willie" (Wilhelmina) have no children and maintain homes in Amsterdam and Barcelona.

Miljan Miljanic, recently appointed National team manager in Yugoslavia.

RED STAR THROUGH

RED STAR'S performance in eliminating Arsenal from the UEFA Cup is the one bright feature of the club scene in Yugoslavia and they may now have turned the corner after a succession of disasters as previously reported.

After establishing a slender 1-0 lead in the home leg, Red Star managed to draw 1-1 at Highbury thanks to a stunning goal from top scorer Dusan Savic late in the match.

In between these two games Red Star had an impressive 5-1 win over local rivals OFK Belgrade which put them back into fourth place in the championship. Savic scored twice in this match to take his total to 14 in the League.

The reconstructed national side also did well against Greece in the Balkan Cup, beating them 4-1 with Halilhodzic grabbing a hat-trick. Yugoslavia now meet Rumania in the final and of course the Rumanians are also in the same European Championship group.

Lead

Dinamo Zagreb kept leadership of the First Division after beating Vojvodina 2-0. It meant they had a two point lead over Hajduk Split and Buducnost.

However Dinamo then embarked on a tour of England which started with a 2-0 defeat against the champions Nottingham Forest and continued with a 5-1 reverse against Second Division Luton Town.

Red Star forward Milos Sestic was involved in a curious incident in the game with Belgrade. He challenged the opposing goalkeeper who thinking a free kick had been awarded, placed the ball on the ground. Sestic put it into the goal which was allowed by the referee.

Sestic was so pleased he did not turn up for training for three days and was promptly omitted from the party to play Arsenal in the second leg of the UEFA Cup.

Anderlecht slip behind Beveren

ERRATIC form shown by Anderlecht has cost them the leadership of the First Division in Belgium while Beveren have been more consistent in losing only one of their first 14 matches.

With a match in hand of Anderlecht, Beveren are two points ahead of their nearest rivals, who have remained in second place through a better goal difference over Antwerp.

Such is the closeness of competition that there are five teams just two points behind them.

Ruud Geels has maintained his lead as the top marksman in the country scoring four times in the match against La Louviere which Anderlecht won 7-0 and twice against Waregem who were defeated 5-0.

This brought his total to 19 in the current season which makes him current joint leader with Holland's Kees Kist.

Anderlecht have scored 39 goals in 15 matches but have already lost five league games. Yet their scoring potential was seen in good light against Liverpool in the first leg of the Super Cup when they scored three times to the Anfield club's once.

On the international scene, Belgium were beaten 1-0 in Tel Aviv by Israel in a friendly and their prospects in the European Championship were not helped by Portugal winning in Austria.

However the Belgians can console themselves in the knowledge that they managed to draw in Portugal who are emerging as the favourites in this group which also includes Norway and Scotland.

New coach for Atletico Madrid

Hungarian Cerenc Szuza shakes hands with Brazilian international Luis Pereira when he met the Atletico Madrid players after taking over as the club's coach.

BOOK REVIEW

DEFINITELY for the Christmas stocking is one of Marshall Cavendish's latest offerings, the ***Footbal Quiz Book.*** *It's a neat, ordered package of picture quizzes designed to capture the interest of both fathers and sons.*

A few puzzles and quick 20-question salvoes are thrown in as well to vary the style.

It's not the sort of puzzle book to be solved easily by keeping a footbal dictionary at your elbow. Rather it's a test of close continuous interest in the game, with those who watch the television highlights perhaps having an advantage over those who prefer to stand on the terraces – if only to better recall some of the incidents around which the questions are built.

K.R.

Niedercorn back in front

PROGRESS NIEDERCORN managed to retrieve the leadership of the Luxembourg First Division by virtue of their 3-0 win away to Aris Bonneweg.

At the same time Union were dropping a point at Grevenmacher in a 1-1 draw which left them a point behind the leaders.

Only two points away from them are Red Boys Differdingen who retained this position after a fine 7-2 win over Etzelle Ettelbruck.

ALBERTO IS THE NEW STAR

FAST emerging as the black hope of Portugal is Benfica's defender Alberto, once villain and twice hero of recent club and international matches.

Alberto was sent off by Welsh referee Clive Thomas in the UEFA Cup match between Borussia Moenchengladbach and Benfica, but returned to the national side to score a spectacular solo goal in the last minute in Vienna to give the Portuguese a 2-1 win.

Then he produced another against Scotland to provide two more valuable points in the European Championship.

Alberto is being hailed as yet another Eusebio and is 22. His full name is Alberto Gomes Fonseca Junior and he first joined the club in 1973 as a 17 year old and appears to have a useful future.

His club, Benfica, have recovered from a poor start and are top of the table again a point in front of Porto the reigning champions.

Benfica won 2-1 at Guimaraes while Porto were being held to a 1-1 draw away to Estoril to establish this situation.

A point underneath Porto come two teams Varzim and Sporting and in fact only four points separate the top nine clubs.

Newly promoted Viseu appear in trouble already, however. They have managed to score only three times in 11 games but this has at least produced two wins! Even so they are bottom with just these four points and are already three points away from their nearest rivals Maritimo and Beira-Mar.

Viseu do share something with the leaders Benfica. Neither of them have drawn a league game so far.

Salzburg move up to third

AUSTRIA/WAC's winning run was halted by newly promoted Austria Salzburg who beat them by the only goal in the 16th match of the championship.

Salzburg are showing some encouraging form and are currently third in the table, two points behind second place Rapid and five adrift of the leaders Austria/WAC.

However, the champions should recover from this temporary setback and with veteran Tom Parits enjoying an Indian Summer in the scoring line with 14 league goals out of a total of 38 scored by his team, they should retain their title with nearly a half of the programme completed.

Attendances continue to be a problem and home defeat for the national side has not improved matters. When Portugal won with an injury time goal in the Prater Stadium against Austria, hopes of reaching the European Championship knock-out stage received a body blow.

And for the following weekend's round of five League matches the total attendance was only 22,500, exactly an average of 4,500 per match.

Berlin record

DYNAMO BERLIN dropped their first point in the current season when they were involved in a 1-1 draw away to the champions Dynamo Dresden.

The Berlin club have established a new record from the start of a season with ten successive victories. They are four points in front of Dresden and with nearly half of the programme completed must feel confident of recording what will be their first such title.

They did win the Cup nearly 20 years ago but otherwise have had a modest history.

They are still going well in the East German Cup too, and beat local rivals Union Berlin 15-2 on aggregate in the last round.

Dresden can still look to the European Cup and with Magdeburg in the Cup Winners Cup East Germany have two sides remaining in European tournaments.

Action from the international between Austria and Portugal.

AJAX OUT

FURTHER ammunition was fed to those who consider that Dutch football is in decline, when the country's last European representative Ajax went out of the UEFA Cup.

After their 4-1 defeat in Budapest, they could only pull back two of the goals at home and one of those was a rather dubious penalty awarded when Lukacs was alleged to have fouled Meijer.

Ray Clarke put Ajax ahead from the spot but it was a minute before half-time by then and Tahamata had already squandered a chance with only the Honved goalkeeper to beat.

Tahamata did manage to score again midway through the second half but Ajax were unable to force another effort which would have given them the tie on the away goal.

In the championship Roda JC have managed to stay in front after catching Ajax, though they dropped a point at home to Twente which left them one point ahead of the Amsterdam club.

Ajax who had suffered in and out form in recent matches came back to scoring form with a 7-3 win over Volendam to record their tenth championship win of the season. But PSV were held scoreless at home by MVV Maastricht and remained a point away from Ajax.

Fourth place AZ 67 continue to be the top marksmen with Kees Kist the leading scorer in Holland. They beat Den Haag 7-1 to record their 51st League goal. Altogether in their 15 matches no fewer than 76 goals have been scored at an incredible rate of just over five per game.

In contrast Feyenoord currently lying fifth have been rather more modest in the scoring field. Only 28 goals have come from their games of which they have let in just eight.

The season has been notable for the number of drawn matches to date. Of 135 matches there have been 45 ending all square. PEC Zwolle are the draw champions along with Twente. They have divided the spoils on eight occasions each. Yet the Dutch can claim to have Europe's two top scorers at present in Ruud Geels (now with Anderlecht) who has 19 goals a figure equalled by Kist.

HUNGARY

by Leslie Vernon

TRAGEDY FOLLOWS TRAGEDY

TRAGEDY follows tragedy as Hungary blunders through their worst-ever European Championship campaign. Two months ago we headlined this column in "World Soccer" — "Five consecutive defeats", hoping fervently that this funeral sequence might come to a close in the next match against the traditional foes, the Soviet Union.

This wish came true, but in the good old Hungarian tradition, laughter and relief were swiftly followed by tears and despair.

Still, chronologically speaking, the first task *was* the defeat of Russia in the wake of the disaster in Helsinki. Ferenc Kovacs made a few changes, left out the Dozsa players, and relied more on muscle power than on subtlety.

Nikita Simonjan, the Russian chief, who obviously has his own problems, fielded his usual side, including some highly-rated players, Konikov, Burjak, Blochin. But they are just names these days. The goals came in the 28th minute (Varadi) and in the 60th, when Szokolai headed past sub-goalie, Gontarj — 2-0.

So, the hope of qualification for the finals was once again alive.

These were manager Kovacs' after-match comments: "For this game, we had the opportunity to prepare under better circumstances than the one against Finland. With more league matches behind them, the players are fitter, less nervous and more combative. Improvement in the team's morale manifested itself on the pitch."

Simonjan, grimly determined, only used one sentence to express his feelings. "We shall finish on top of this qualifying group."

Formation

One cannot blame Kovacs for sticking to the same formation against Greece in Salonika. In fact, he only made one change — midfielder Zombori in place of forward Istvan Kovacs. On a waterlogged pitch, it was impossible to play constructive football, but to epeat a cliche, the conditions were the same for both sides.

However, the Greeks, rampant after their 8-1 thrashing of Finland, found their feet quicker, and during an inspired 14 minutes' second-half spell, buried the Magyars. With the inept Katzirz in Hungary's goal playing the part of a mud-caked fall-guy, Gallakos (2) and Ardizoglou scored. Mavros got one more near the end, but Varadi replied from a free-kick — 4-1!

The immediate comments of Kovacs were so illuminating, and indicative of the state of Hungarian football, that they are worth re-printing in full: "In the first half we couldn't capitalise on the Greeks' justified over-confidence. We settled down to a slowish tempo which suited the opposition. When they got on top in the second-half, it was only to be expected that they would score.

"My players didn't know what to do on an impossile pitch, our marking was non-existent. The Greeks were superior in every department."

Justifiable over-confidence! On behalf of Greece, who have never beaten Hungary before? Against a team which a few weeks earlier defeated Russia? In any case, whichever way we look at it, this result effectively killed Hungary's chances of booking a passage to Italy for the Finals.

Ironically, in the World Cup, when the same three teams were drawn into a group, the Greeks helped the Magyars by beating Russia — now the boot is on the other foot. No matter how feeble they are, the U.S.S.R. should be able to win at home against Hungary and Finland (they have already beaten Greece) and grab a point in Helsinki.

Hungary played yet another international during the autumn — in Frankfurt v. W. Germany. It was intended to be "a farewell to Helmut Schoen" fixture, and in their pre-match comments, the Magyars expressed forlorn hopes that the Germans might not take the game too seriously due to the celebrations.

Relief

But in the event, no one really saw the game due to the thick fog which descended on the pitch shortly after the kick-off. After 60 minutes, referee Wurtz called it a day — a blessed relief for the beleagured Hungarians. Not surprisingly, some people in Budapest were not particularly upset over these set-backs, because they served as ammunition against F.A. president, Istvan Kutas.

The Greek defeat finally proved too much for him, and he resigned (or was told to resign?) after four years' iron-fisted dictatorship.

Perhaps these are too strong words, because one has to realise that when Kutas took over, Hugarian football was in a terrible mess. Corruption was widespread ("selling points"), the players' financial status irregular, the standard of league football, abysmal. Some of his reforms were highly beneficial, especially for the players, and for discipline on all levels.

But one man, whether it is Kutas or anyone else, should not have too much power *vis-a-vis* the clubs. That's why his introduction of compulsory training schedules, his interference with the employments and sackings of managers were unpopular.

His place will be taken by an altogether different character. Although Gyorgy Szepesi (56) is also a media-man, his witty radio commentaries and TV appearances make him one of the most widely admired journalists in the country.

In the fifties, "Gyuri" was the link between the "wonderteam" and the public, his infectious, unbounded enthusiasm transformed some of his commentaries into as memorable an experience as the games themselves.

Perhaps Szepesi's first job should be to persuade coaching talent to stay at home. Florian Albert is the latest to leave — for Lybia. Ferenc Szusza is back in Spain with Atletico Madrid, Gelei is working in Australia, Illowszky is in charge of Admira/Wacker.

There are, of course, a host of other Hungarians working abroad — a brain drain their football can ill-afford. I would also like to see Szepesi restore the traditional autonomy of the clubs. Let them run their own affairs without too much interference, and let the referees follow the F.I.F.A. rules — not the ones imposed on them by the Hungarian F.A.

No, sir, it hasn't been a good "first-half" of the season — if only all Hungarian international games could be obscured by swirling fog, we would all be better of. . . .

Andras Torocsik of Hungary

Venables has come a long way

by Ken Goldman

ON a warm August morning in 1963 the coaching career of Terry Venables got off to an unusual start. A group of about 30 youths and men were aimlessly trying to organise some pre-season training on a ground in Hendon, in North West London, when a stocky, exuberant Scotsman paid a surprise visit to promote a prodigy.

That Scotsman was none other than Tommy Docherty, then the Manager of Chelsea, and the prodigy was, of course, Terry Venables, whom Docherty had recommended to the Sports Club who had apprached him for a coach

Calling everyone round him, Docherty pointed out that it was to be Venables' first coaching job, that he had a lot to offer to the game over the next few years and that given the chance and the co-operation, he would make a first class coach.

And so it proved to be with Queens Park Rangers, Crystal Palace, and with the England 21 side. Indeed Crystal Palace's revival after Malcolm Allison's reign is wonderful to behold and bears the stamp and hall mark of Venables, Alan Harris and new England Youth Team Coach John Cartwright.

Of his early involvement as a coach and his transition to Management, Venables says: "I think my own introduction to Management was helped by being used to coaching players from an early age. It helped me to get the important organisation together right away, both on the playing side and recruiting people to help me.

Value

"Management and coaching tend to be inter-related, although not everybody wishes to combine the two things. Coaching does not only mean putting on a good session, but it is also about getting the best out of players and making sure that things suit both them and you."

Venables accepts his present youth team was to a greater extent forced upon him by the financial difficulties he encountered when taking over as manager at Crystal Palace. However, the fact that Palace have won the F.A. Youth Cup for the last two successive seasons, shows the value and belief in such a system, especially when it can be seen that several members of the Youth Cup Final sides have progressed straight through to the first team and many are on the verge of different grades of International Selection.

Venables continues the story: "It can be seen from the results in the Youth Cup that we believe in having a good youth scheme, but I have always believed in such schemes anyway. However, it was particularly forced on the Club by reason of lack of finance following heavy spending by previous managers.

"However it has all worked to the good, and my aim now is to have a conveyor belt system so that the youngsters can come into the first team and take over from the older players when it is time for them to step down. Occasionally of course, it is necessary to go into the transfer market to give the team a lift."

Obviously to fuel the conveyor belt system, it is necessary to find good young players, so I queried what he looked for in youngsters when trying to assess their potential, and making a decision to try to sign them. "The main thing we try to find is players with effective skill, because we feel we can awlays persuade them to work harder, and if you only look for workhorses, it is very difficult to create or impart in them the necessary skill and techniques. What type of effective skill you look for depends on the position of the player and whether he is a defender or an attacker."

Terry is, of course, known to be a very extrovert person, always available to the Press after his club matches and frequently to be seen appearing on a number of different television sports programmes. It was, I ventured, obvious that he believed in good media relationships, and he confirmed this when he said: "As can be seen from my record over the years, I believe in the media, and by and large they do a good job. It is important to remember that the game does not belong to the manager, but belongs to everyone and particularly to the spectators.

"The media therefore help to tell the supporters about the team and keep them up to date with what is going on. This can be particularly important where the team moves from division to division because spectators do not always appreciate the difficulties and problems this causes where for example, the higher you go, the more quickly you get punished for your mistakes."

The ubiquitous Venables has tried his hand at many things during his career in football, which are totally away from the realms of the round ball game. He toyed with being a professional singer, a shop proprietor, and an amateur comedian, but his most successful extra-curricula activity has been his writing with co-author, Gordon Williams, where they have put together four books, and several television scripts, mostly about a private detective,—a fictional character by the name of "Hazel".

Of his wide variety of interests outside the game, Venables says: "My general philosophy is that 'God loves a trier.' I feel that in life, if you can do something, you should have a go at it, and see how far you can progress. I have attempted such diverse things as singing and writing but football for me has always been the first love.

"Gordon Williams and I have written four books, including 'They used to play on grass', and the three Hazel books. Gordon and I write one section each and we work hard on the descriptive language, and look for fresh ways of portraying in words the situations we create."

Of the men who most influenced him, Terry names Malcolm Allison "who provoked my football thinking" and Gordon Williams "who has made me look deeper into things and taught me to avoid making purely surface judgements."

It is clearly the aim of this happy skilful young manager to get his team back into the first division and keep them there with a strong playing staff, who like himself, try to play skilful entertaining and enterprising football. Although it may not seem very far in distance to have travelled from Hendon in the north west to Crystal Palace in the south east of London, Terry Venables it can be said, has come a long way since the Summer of '63.

Crystal Palace manager Terry Venables.

WHERE SCOTL FROM

I have never known a hangover to last so long. For every Scottish soccer fan 1978 was going to be the year . . . the year it all came right on the international scene.

There were promises of everlasting World Cup glory in Argentina; there was talk of a new era; there was optimism. The nightmare days were over. We were now going to see the light. There was an end to the inept bungling that marked our zombie-like trek through life's soccer highway.

Things, alas, didn't quite go to plan, did they? Thank goodness we are now into '79 for things can hardly get worse. The Scottish international side—with the world class midfield trio of Bruce Rioch, Don Masson (Don who?) and Asa Hartford—stumbled like a blind man from one chaos to another in a 12-month spell that saw the promises of brilliance well and truly buried under a rubble of rubbish.

Scotland couldn't even win a single Home International match—and all the games were at Hampden! Still, the loyal fans gave them a send-off to remember a couple of days later when the team flew out for South America and impending disaster.

There's no point in indulging in the weird and not-so-wonderful things that happened during the brief stay in Argentina. Peru walloped Ally MacLeod's tattered army and Iran, who admitted before the match that they were in South America to learn the finer points of soccer, took a point after giving the Scots a goal start.

Of course, Scotland did beat Holland 3-2, but, by then, it was far too late. It was a drug-taking, non-footballing expedition of failure that proved to be a colossal waste of time and, more importantly to the unfortunates who followed their country, a colossal waste of money.

Ally MacLeod went out to Argentina as the new "King" of Scotland. He fired out promises and pledges at machine gun speed and the fans, desperate to believe they had a team worthy of becoming world champions, were hooked. People in Sauchiehall Street were talking about the celebrations they had planned whenever Scotland returned with the most glittering soccer prize on this planet.

Shrewder judges took a more professional and sane attitude. It was a nice thought certainly, but there had been aspects of Scotland's play—highlighted before the ill-fated trip—that worried them. I said in this column that I would gladly eat my hat if the Scots won the World Cup. I couldn't just see it happening although that would have been one hat I would have enjoyed had we pulled it off!

So, the chatter was about Scotland winning the World Cup. There were no thoughts of failure. That's what made it even harder to take when Peru exposed our shortcomings so cruelly in Cordoba. Fans sat staring blankly at their television screens long after the game had finished. Planned parties for that Saturday night were quickly scrapped.

A friend of mine, whom I have always respected as being a person of perception and no little grey matter, admitted to me that he ended up banging his head off his living room wall after the diabolical 1-1 draw with Iran. Yes, football can get to you sometimes!

Anyway, there was much talk about the waygoing of a certain Mr. MacLeod when the team returned from Argentina, but, remarkably, he was thrown a lifeline and kept his job before embarking on the opening European Championship match against Austria in Vienna.

Scotland were still floundering hopelessly like stranded whales as the slick Austrians stuck a variety of shots past Alan Rough. They were 3-0 up before Scotland snatched a couple near the end to put a better complexion on the scoreline, but it wasn't so much a fightback by the Scots as over-confidence by the Austrians that brought about those two goals.

MacLeod said he was proud of the lads for that performance in Vienna and backed up his words by promptly resigning and joining his former club, part-time Ayr United in the First Division.

Jock Stein, for 44 days the manager of Leeds United, returned North of the Border and the fans were smiling again. Over 65,000 turned up to welcome the Big Man back to the international scene in the next European Championship match against the amateurs of Norway at Hampden. After a nerve-wracking 90 minutes the Scots emerged victors thanks to a penalty goal by skipper Archie Gemmill two minutes from time, but the performance was not an encouraging one. Still, it was Stein's first game in charge, after all.

The honeymoon lasted another 90 minutes. The European tie in Lisbon against Portugal, who are hardly awe-inspiring, proved Scotland have a long, long way to travel before they can even talk about gaining draws away from home against half-decent opponents.

There was so much lacking in the Scotland team that night. Hardly anything went right and there can be no doubt about one thing—*it is time some individuals were told their international days are over!*

Pathetic may be a harsh word, but it's the one that readily springs to mind when you talk about the displays from some players against the Portuguese. The midfield was a shambles; an area of toil and sweat and no imagination.

If the goalposts were erected *across* the pitch then we might get somewhere! I've never seen a team play so many square balls in all my life. I accept that it can open up play, can entice opponents into coming out of their defensive formations. It can also frustrate rivals, but it can also frustrate the poor fans who are baying for action, especially when their team is trailing.

I realise you have got to be patient in football and that today's game can be as well thought out as a game of chess between the masters, but unless you get that ball into the danger zones eventually you are going nowhere fast. While the ball is being shuttled across and backwards you must hope that there are players with enough intelligence to be searching for scoring positions in packed penalty areas and that there will be players willing to come out to the edge of the box and play those neat little one-twos every other team in the world seems to have perfected except Scotland.

I saw little invention against Portugal. The high ball was used again in abundance—as it was against Austria and Norway. Like I said last month, with players of the calibre of Gordon McQueen, Andy Gray and Joe Jordan around you expect to win more than you lose in this area, but, really, it's hardly a breath-taking tactic to baffle today's cultured defenders.

Manual Bento is one of the least impressive goalkeepers I have ever seen. He looked like something out of "Fawlty Towers" as he scampered around his goal-line when the inevitable high balls dropped down on top of him. He used his fists more times in those 90 minutes than Muhammad Ali has in a lifetime!

Crossball

I remember well the ploy Jock Stein used at Celtic when he had Bobby Murdoch and Tommy Gemmell in his team. At corner-kicks Murdoch took the right hand side of the penalty area 18 yards out and Gemmell did likewise on the left. Billy McNeill would put the rival defence under pressure with his superb ability in the air and if the defenders did manage to half-clear the ball there was the dynamic right boot of Murdoch and also the left boot of Gemmell waiting to thunder in the rebound. They scored countless goals from these situations and would probably have added handsomely to their accounts had they still been playing today and had come up against a goalkeeper as inept as Bento.

Asa Hartford contributed little against the Portuguese and there must surely be a question mark hovering over his future as a Scottish international player. He hasn't really been doing the job expected of him. He had a poor World Cup and has been unimpressive in the European Championship so far.

Archie Gemmill, too, must be near the end of the international road. He huffed and puffed against Portugal, but didn't hit one single telling pass to carve open a real opportunity for the forwards. And he must take his share of the blame for the only goal of the game, scored by the raiding defender Alberto, of Benfica.

It was a goal that should have been prevented all along the line. Alberto accepted the ball on the left flank just inside the Scottish half. Gemmill came back with him, but put in no serious challenge. Right-back Stuart Kennedy then came out to meet Alberto as he cantered towards the danger zone.

Gemmill backed off, Alberto quickly realised this, accelerated one way as Kennedy went the other for reasons best known to himself, and Martin Buchan, who had been covering the right beforehand, was appalled to see Gemmill taking no further part in the proceedings.

Alan Rough came off his goal-line as Alberto moved in for the kill. Kennedy looked aghast, Buchan tried desperately to block the shot, but, displaying all the skills of an old-time Scottish midfielder, Alberto refused to be rushed and stroked a neat shot into the net. Rough later said he might have saved the effort if it hadn't brushed off Buchan's boot, but I doubt it. If anything the slight deflection—if there was one!—put it more into his path.

DO AND GO HERE?

asks ALEX GORDON

You must give the defence 0 out of 10 for that particular goal. It wasn't Buchan's fault, that's certain. Rough possibly committed himself too early, but goalkeepers do this all the time these days. The fault lies with Kennedy and Gemmill . . . there is no debating that point.

This defence will continue to give away silly goals until changes are made. They have now lost six goals in three European Championship matches and if you add the six lost in three World Cup games you don't have to be a genius to see there is something drastically wrong with this rearguard.

Stuart Kennedy is a good club player with Aberdeen, but, as yet, he doesn't have the experience to make an impact on the international scene. Frankie Gray is in a similar position. The same, however, cannot be said about Gordon McQueen and Martin Buchan, the two Manchester United central defenders who don't seem to have a working relationship.

Both McQueen and Buchan are left-sided. Under Stein's guidance McQueen has been playing to his strength while Buchan has had to move slightly to the right and possibly this could be the reason for the player's lack of usual competence in recent international matches. He doesn't look comfortable—and it shows.

So, if they can't play together the next question must be: Who goes? That's Stein's problem, but I must admit I would prefer a more footballing type of centre-back than McQueen.

Gordon, the most expensive player in Britain at £500,000, adds very little to the build-up play when he comes forward. He doesn't look happy when the ball is on the ground and if the Scottish boss is looking for a team that can play the so-called revolving total football game then he is going to have to think again about McQueen.

Certainly, the Manchester United giant is magnificent in the air —one of the best in the world. There is no doubt about that and he is good for the odd goal every now and again from dead ball situations, but that doesn't really help the emergence of a system within the team structure.

It would be good to see something emerging, a pattern the players understood and one that brought results. That is NOT happening just now. McQueen had many opportunities against the Portuguese to bring the ball through and use it. They stepped off the Scottish back-four in these situations and funnelled back into defence or packed their midfield.

They knew what was going to happen next. And, nine and a half times out of ten, it did. The ball would go from McQueen across to Buchan who would look for Kennedy making a run on the right or Gemmill coming deep to pick it up. It was bloody monotonous, to say the least!

Criticised

I felt sorry for John Robertson, so heavily criticised for his lack of form, or anything like it, in his recent internationals. He was raring to go. He knew he had a lot to prove and, if it's any consolation to him, he showed the Scottish fans his true worth.

In the unfortunate circumstances he had a good game. He played in his usual Nottingham Forest-type role and he looked fairly impressive. In fact, I think he hit the best through ball of the evening when he swept one neatly between two Portuguese defenders in the second half from just inside his own half, but new boy David Narey wasn't alert enough to latch onto the ball and the opportunity was lost.

Joe Jordan was another disappointment. At the start of the match he was being heavily marked by Alinho, but after about 15 minutes the "shadow" was removed which was hardly a tribute to his ablity on the night.

He tried, oh, how he tried, but all his deficiences were exposed and highlighted. Big Joe shields the ball well, but his footwork isn't going to bewilder anyone. The Portuguese defenders had more natural skill than a lot of Scotland's forwards and they proved it, minute by minute as the game dragged on.

I think Jordan should have been taken off about 10 minutes into the second-half. When the substitution came near the end it was too late to change the pattern of the game and it was too late to even give Ian Wallace an opportunity to warm up.

All the garbage that has been spewed out about Jordan and Kenny Dalglish not knocking it off in the same forward line is a lot of nonsense. There's no reason why they shouldn't be able to play alongside each because their styles, basically complement one another. But the time seems right to change the formation up front.

Andy Gray? Or Ian Wallace? They should get a real chance to show their form this year in an international shirt. Gray was disappointing against Norway. He had only one effort at goal although it must be said that he did set up Scotland's second goal that evening with a neat knock-down for Dalglish. Ian Wallace scored on his international debut when he came on as a substitute against Bulgaria last year and rammed in the winner. He didn't get the chance to show anything against Portugal.

I would keep Dalglish in the side despite the criticism that inevitably comes his way when Scotland lose. Admittedly, he was hardly superb in Lisbon, but the only bits of skill I saw from Scottish players that night came from the Liverpool player and John Robertson.

And, don't forget, Dalglish had Scotland's only direct shot at goal. The baffling Bento made the most of his save as he leapt into the air to punch the ball over the bar, but it was still a good effort from a player who knew he wasn't playing well. Dalglish had another shot late in the game that just about went out of the ground, but again he deserves applause for attempting something different. Had it come off he would have been a hero. Had it not he would have been a chump. It was a risk he was prepared to take. Other players wouldn't have taken that same risk.

Scotland didn't have a playmaker against Portugal and that didn't aid Dalglish, either. When Graeme Souness had to withdraw Stein replaced him with Narey, a player who spent most of last season as a sweeper and a small part of the current term in the middle of the park. You just cannot even start to compare Souness with Narey.

So, it's back to the drawing board again for Scotland and changes must be made. I said last month that Stein would have to be ruthless after our performance against Norway, although we still managed both points that evening at Hampden.

Hartford and Gemmill are far too similar in style. Jordan is limited in the attack as is McQueen in the defence. Rough had little to do against Portugal so any controversy that followed him to Lisbon is still there.

Anyway, that was the year that was. I'll never forget it. Good riddance to it. Things can't get worse. Or can they?

I sincerely hope not . . .

DUKLA TRIUMPH OVER STUTTGART

BEATEN 4-1 away by VfB Stuttgart in the UEFA Cup, Dukla Prague wound themselves up for the second leg with an 8-0 home win over VSS Kosice with inside forward Stanislav Pelc scoring four.

Then, watched by a crowd of 33,000 with the game screened live and in full on TV, Dukla won 4-0 to qualify and an enthusiastic crowd invaded the pitch — unheard of in recent years.

Top scorers in the league at the halfway mark with Dukla topping the table were: Karel Kroupa (Brno) 11; Zdenek Nehoda (Dukla) 10 and Stanislav Pelc (Dukla) 8. This puts Nehoda in the relatively exclusive club of currently active players who have scored 100 league goals.

The last games before visiting Wembley got a mixed reception from the public: 15,000 watched Sparta Prague beat Banik Ostrava 3-1 and 14,730 saw champions Brno beat Bohemians 4-0. But 3 of the 8 games were watched by less than 2,000 paying customers.

Poland beat Switzerland

NEW Polish international team manager Ryszard Kulesza got off to a good start with an unexpected 2-0 win over Switzerland fielding a blend of youth and experience.

Zbigniew Boniek and Roman Ogaza scored the goals, one in each half. Widzew Lodz had their ground closed for five home games when a fan threw a beer bottle and hit the referee at a league match.

The best player of the autumn according to the leading football weekly 'Pilka Nozna' was Leslaw Cmikiewicz of Legia Warsaw. He is 30-year-old with 58 caps, and was recalled to play against Switzerland.

Big favourites

The Olympics squad will play three First Division clubs in Greece at the end of the autumn campaign after which a list of probables will be drawn up. After the quarter finals of the FA Cup Wisla Krakow are the big favourites.

They beat Lech Gdansk 2-1 (away) in the quarter finals. Other results: Arka Gdynia — Lech Poznan 1-1 (Arka won 7-6 on penalties); Zombierki Bytom v Motor Lublin (Div 2) 3-3 and Zombierki won 4-2 on penalties while in the Division Two clash Zaglebie beat Gornik Zabrze 3-2.

Leadership at the end of the autumn campaign was settled on the last day with a clash between Odra Opole (Top) and Ruch Chorzow (second). A crowd of 22.000 saw Odra win 3-1 and go clear by two points.

Top scorers at the break were Malnowicz (Ruch) on nine and Tyc (Odra) with eight.

CROY TOPS AGAIN

JUROEN CROY, international goalkeeper of Sachsenring Zwickau, has been voted Footballer of the Year for the third time, previously winning in 1972 and 1976. With Dynamo Dresden libero Hans-Jurgen Dorner in second place, this reflects on the current dearth of outstanding forwards.

BFC Dynamo Berlin (who have never been champions) got off to a record start to the season, winning ten games off the reel. This beat Dynamo Dresden's previous record of eight wins at the start in 1972-73. BFC followed that with home and away wins in the FA Cup, 8-1 and 7-1 v neighbours 1.FC Union Berlin, but dropped their first point away to Dynamo Dresden (1-1) before a 33,000 crowd.

Leading scorers so far in the league are Wolf Netz (BFC Dynamo) with nine goals and Joachim Streich (1.FC Magdeburg) on eight.

Fenerbahce new leaders

IN the twelfth week of the Turkish League, Fenerbahce once again climbed to the top of the table with a goal average of plus 19. They beat Orduspor from Black Sea 2-0, reaching 17 points.

League newcomers Diyarbakirspor, who held Trabzonspor in Ankara to a goalless draw, climbed to the third place. Trabzonspor, with this result, lost the leadership which they had held for the last three weeks.

Izmir's two favourite teams took advantage of playing their games at home . . . Göztepe of Izmir beat Black Sea side, Samsunspor 4-1 and Altay, again from Izmir, defeated Adanaspor 2-1. They shared the fourth and fifth positions. In a derby match in Istanbul Galatasaray, coached by the former national manager Coskun Özari, defeated Besiktas 1-0 and settled on the seventh position – a game in hand.

Paunovic with seven goals is the top scorer.

England goalkeeper Peter Shilton, with Tony Currie on hand, saves from Czechoslovakia's Miroslav Gajdusek at Wembley.

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First, Alcino (Portuguesa) had taken the drug anphetamine before a match against Paulista and secondly, when Sao Paulo drew 0-0 with Santos and were eliminated because they had scored fewer goals than Santos (18 against 27) during the championship, Sao Paulo claimed more wins and more points than Santos (28 against 23), but the Sao Paulo Football Association upheld the original decision and the tournament started again.

Corinthians deserved to win. Last year they won the Paulista championship after 23 years without winning anything. Their supporters, for waiting all this time, are now nicknamed "Fiel" (Faithful).

Then, Corinthians started to build a powerful side. They already had former Brazil players Jairo, Ze Maria, Romeu, Vaguinho, Vladimir, Palhinha and bought Amaral (Brazil full-back in Argentina) from Guarani.

Recently they signed the top scorer and star of Botafogo de Ribeirao Preto, Socrates — a tall, skilful 24-year-old — also Uruguayan midfielder Taborda and, from Sport de Recife, Biro-Biro, 19 years old and the new idol.

Even without being a candidate, Biro-Biro received 26,000 votes in the last Brazilian general election!

Palhinha and Socrates are combining well and scoring a lot of goals. The press are recalling the good old days at Santos with Pele and Coutinho.

When Corinthians play well it's a guarantee of a big crowd. They qualified as runners-up of Group C and went to the final tournament beating Palmeiras 3-0 (attendance 94,872), the Brazilian champions Guarani 3-2 after extra-time (att. 83,419) and Santos in the final 1-0 (att. 120,000).

Santos drew 0-0 with Sao Paulo and beat Ponte Preta 1-0, losing the final to Corinthians when midfielder Clodoaldo — who is playing well again, as in the 1970 World Cup — was sent off after 38 minutes. Clodoaldo complained about a penalty awarded to Corinthians, when goalkeeper Vitor held Palhinha's legs. Ze Maria missed the penalty, but in the second half, with only ten players, Santos couldn't resist and after 80 minutes, Palhinha received the ball from Socrates inside the penalty area and scored. So Corinthians won the "Cidade de Sao Paulo Cup".

The Brazilian crowds are happy again. The two most popular clubs won: Flamengo in Rio and Corinthians in Sao Paulo. The February carnival will really be a big celebration.

Ze Maria of Brazil.

TACA CIDADE DE SAO PAULO—FINAL
Morumbi Stadio
Corinthians 1 — Santos 0
Attendance: 120,000 spectators.
Goal: Palhinha (Corinthians) after 80 minutes.
Yellow card: Clodoaldo
Red card: Clodoaldo (he was sent off after 38 minutes).
***Teams* — Corinthians: Jairo — Ze Maria, Amaral, Ze Eduardo (Claudio Mineiro) and Vladimir — Taborda (Piter), Biro-Biro and Socrates — Vaguinho, Palhinha and Basilio. Santos: Vitor — Nelson, Joaozinho, Neto and Gilberto — Clodoaldo, Ailton Lira and Pita — Nilton Batata, Celio (Toninho Vieira) and Joao Paulo.**
Referee: Dulcidio Vanderlei Boschilia.

RIO DE JANEIRO CHAMPIONSHIP
Maracana Stadio
Vasco da Gama 2 — Fluminense 0
Attendance: 48,032

***Teams* — Vasco da Gama: Leao — Orlando (Geraldo), Abel, Gaúcho and Marco Antonio — Helinho, Guina, Paulo Roberto — Wilsinho (Paulo César), Roberto and Paulinho. Fluminense: Wendel (Renato) — Miranda, Tadeu, Edinho and Marinho — Pintinho, Cleber, Mario — Luis Fumanchu, Nunes, Doval (Zezé).**
Referee: Arnaldo César Coelho.

Goals: Roberto (Vasco) after 11 minutes; Paulo Roberto (Vasco) after 16 minutes.
Yellow cards: Edinho and Cleber (Fluminense), Abel and Guina (Vasco).

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I AM A 19-years-old Manchester City fan and I would like to correspond with any Manchester City supporter (living preferably near Maine Road) or else anywhere in the world. My main interests are: Football, Table tennis, Music, Stamp and Post-Cards collecting and listening to radio programmes. My address is as follows: Kader Ghanty, 35 Mgr. Gonin Street, P.O. Box 432, Port-Louis, Mauritius.

20-YEAR-OLD MALE would like to correspond with football fans anywhere in the world that could supply facts and figures about their favourite club (year founded, league titles, cup wins, record win, record defeat, most league points/goals, club colours etc.) Anybody that supplies me with information could be in turn supplied with information on a club or clubs that they are interested in. I would especially like fans from Africa, Asia, Sth. America and Middle East where football doesn't get much publicity. Stephen Burns, 23 St. Phillack Cres., Robertson, Via Erica, Victoria, Australia. 3825.

PENPALS: Wanted by 19-year-old Scottish male, in particular from these cities (or surrounding regions): Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Eindhoven, Alkmaar, Enschede, Brussels, Barcelona, Bastia, Metz, Berne, Buenos Aires and New York. Also wanted urgently the 1972 & 1973 European Cup Final programmes. My main interests are football, collecting football souvenirs, athletics, photography and music. Speak English only, please send photo if possible. Marshall Kostka, 36 Drumlanrig Street, Thornhill, DG3 5LJ, Dumfriesshire, Scotland.

FOR SALE. World Soccer issues from June '76 —October '78 + 1 binder, excellent condition. Offers please to Adam Stelmach, 7 Dahomey Road, London, SW.16 6NB.

WANTED. Early copies of 'World Soccer' in good condition. Preferably consecutive. Offers stating price, to Chris Morton, 29 Balmore Drive, Caversham, Reading. Phone 0743 476393.

WANTED. Female pen pal around 20 years of age, must be American, hobbies, music and sport and supporter of New York Cosmos. Wayne Prewett, c/o Carroll & Douglas 234-240 Barkley St, Footscray, 3011 Victoria, Australia.

WANTED. Football programme collections. Very good rates offered. Especially for pre-1960 issues. Stephen Gilhespy, 13 Bare Avenue, Morecambe, Lancs. LA4 6BD.

ANYONE INTERESTED in joining the Lancashire table soccer league or interested in any information about joining the Lancs League should contact: Stephen Worthington, 9 The Crescent, Little Lever, Bolton, BL3 1JT.

USA Scottish soccer coach, 25, experienced youth level, seeks post Washington or Boston area. Ian Sclater, 18 Sherwood Place, Bonnyrigg, Midlothian, Scotland.

FOR SALE. Set of World Soccers April '77 to October 1978. Excellent condition. S.a.e. with offer. Steven Hampson, 14 Patterdale Road, Northenden, Manchester. M22 4NR.

PENPALS of all ages required by 20-year-old Scot, in particular in Holland, Sweden, West Germany, Norway, Portugal and Belgium. My main interests are football, pop music and reading. Will exchange football souvenirs. Male or female. John M. Leitch, 74 Russell Place, East Fulton, Linwood, Scotland.

1970 ECF. Celtic v Feyenoord. Souvenir programme for private collectors only. Limited edition. Send s.a.e. for details. D. Latcham, 2 West View, Ferryhill, Co. Durham.

I AM A15-YEAR-OLD MALE and would like a pen-friend from Manchester, who supports Manchester Utd. My favourite player is George Best. Girl if possible. Mark Clarke, 294 Atawhai Drive, Nelson, New Zealand.

WANTED. Leeds United programmes. Home games season 76/77 and older. Away games season 78/79 and older. Send your list. My address is: Petri Kukkonen, Etupolku 2, SF-45370 Valkeala, Finland.

I WOULD LIKE PEN-PALS from all over the world that support Tottenham. I am 18 years of age, and my address is as follows. Reidar Johnsen, 5745 Aurland, Norway.

PHILIP NESTER would like a pen-friend from either Australia, America, Canada or New Zealand. His interests include all sports especially football and also stamp collecting. Please write to Philip at 45 Hawthorn Road, Cherry Willingham, Lincoln. LN3 4JU. England.

WANTED. Football players "chewing gum" cards. Scottish 1970-71, 71-72. Also '72-73 sets. Corresponding seasons English cards, plus '73-'74, '76-'77. Cash paid or exchange with other collector. Please write for details. 450 Parkhouse Road, South Nitshill, Glasgow, G53 7JU.

EURO-RESULTS

compiled by Keir Radnedge

Club matches

THE UEFA Cup turned ever more surely into an England-West Germany duel as these countries took five clubs between them to the quarter finals. Only Honved, Dukla Prague and Red Star Belgrade provide outside interest.

All the East Europeans did well. Honved were hard pressed to hold a 4-1 first leg lead against Ajax, and Dukla fought back from a similar deficit against Stuttgart. Red Star successfully defended a slim 1-0 lead from their home first leg against Arsenal.

But the most threatening result was provided by former UEFA Cup winners, Borussia Moenchengladbach. Always dangerous away from home, they won 4-2 in Wroclaw in their second leg with Slask, thanks to an Allan Simonsen hat-trick.

The other major scoring feat of the third round was also provided by a German club, with Jürgen Milewski hitting all four goals in Hertha Berlin's second leg thrashing of Esbjerg. Milewski had scored Hertha's only goal in the first game.

Hertha also provided the worst crowd of the round. Only 3,295 turned out to see their second leg in West Berlin because of local television coverage.

The best crowd was the 71,500 who saw the first leg between Stuttgart and Dukla in the Neckarstadion. This was one of only two 50,000-plus crowds.

UEFA CUP
Third round — first legs
(Nov 22 unless stated)

Borussia Mg 1 (Kulik 37 pen)
Slask Wroclaw 1 (Olesiak 49)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Syme (Scot).

Borussia brought Allan Simonsen back after injury, hoping he could solve their goals crisis, but in fact he blew two good chances in the first 25 minutes. Ewald Lienen smashed the ball over the top when it seemed easier to score, but the West Germans finally went ahead after Wladyslaw Zmuda brought down Carsten Nielsen, and Christian Kulik put away the penalty. That was the only time the excellent Zygmunt Kalinowski was beaten all evening, and when Olesiak sneaked an equaliser the Germans were in trouble.

Esbjerg 2 (Leif Hansen 12 pen, Jespersen 48)
Hertha W. Berlin 1 (Milewski 6)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 18,000. **Ref:** Suchanek (Pol).

For the first time in 14 years the Esbjerg stadium was sold out but the game wasn't all that brilliant. Hertha were deceived into relaxing too soon after Milewski's opening goal, and Leif Hansen equalised after Sziedat pulled down Oestergaard. Milewski was refused what seemed a clear penalty after being brought down in the 17th minute, but instead it was Danes who scored the winner through Erik Jespersen. This time Leif Hansen was the creator.

Honved 4 (Nagy 50 and 63, Lukacs 68, Weimper 88)
Ajax Amsterdam 1 (Clarke 81 pen)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 14,500. **Ref:** Casarin (It).
Red Star Belgrade 1 (Blagojevic 13)
Arsenal 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 50,000. **Ref:** Azim-zade (Russia).

Both teams were missing one or more players through suspension. Arsenal's Liam Brady — banned for two games — being potentially the more influential. For some reason, however, Red Star were strangely inhibited as if the cold had numbed their will to win. Cvijetin Blagojevic did score after Arsenal skipper Pat Rice failed to put his head decisively to a Lukic cross and Sestic whipped the ball back for Petrovic to head over for Blagojevic. In the 22nd minute Sammy Nelson cleared a Slavoljub Muslin drive off the goal-line with Pat Jennings beaten. The game deteriorated from there on in. Arsenal's only serious opening came three minutes from time, but Alan Sunderland shot wide.

Strasbourg 0
MSV Duisburg
Att: 27,500. **Ref:** Garrido (Port).

MSV, battling to escape the relegation zone at home were still going strong in Europe. Their hero was goalkeeper Heinze, who made a series of fine saves to foil the French league leaders whose coach, Gilbert Gress, once played a couple of seasons in the Budesliga. The match was notable for the European debut of Jacques Glassman at right back for the French. He got his chance because of a one-match ban on new international Jean-Jacques Marx. Glassmann is just 16 years and four months old — the youngest player in a Euro-tie?

Stuttgart VfB 4 (Volkert 8, 33, Kelsch 67, Ohlicher 87)
Dukla Praha (Gajdusek 57)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 71,500. **Ref:** Homewood (Eng).

A shot from Miroslav Gajdusek, deflected by Karl-Heinz Förster, gave the Czechs some vague hope for the return but Stuttgart were generally far too good.

Valencia 1 (Felman 15)
West Bromwich 1 (Cunningham 48)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 47,000. **Ref:** Galler (Swz).

Valencia won the first half, West Bromwich the second. Cyrille Regis wasted one good chance after 10 minutes and another almost on the interval, but for the rest of the time it was the Spanish team who ran the early show. They went ahead after 17 minutes. Mario Kempes swerved over a corner from the right, goalkeeper Tony Godden mishandled it over his shoulder, and ex-Boca striker Dario Felman headed in. Valencia had already claimed a penalty for a foul by Alistair Robertson on Rainer Bonhof, and seemed justified in appealing for another after Derek Statham brought down Felham. Neither decision went Valencia's way and in the second half West Brom took advantage. First Bryan Robson and Ally Brown set up the equaliser for black winger Laurie Cunningham — the game's outstanding player — then Cunningham again. Regis, Brown and Len Cantello all came close before the final whistle. World Cup hero Mario Kempes wasn't the player he was in the River Plate stadium!

David Price of Arsenal has his shirt pulled during the UEFA Cup clash with Red Star Belgrade.

AC Milan 2 (Bigon 59 and 82)
Manchester City 2 (Kidd 36, Power 52)
Ht: 0-1. **Att:** 37,500. **Ref:** Einbeck (EG). Played Nov 23.

Fog forced a one-day postponement and the effective match-day was a nightmare for Milan. They were notified of an £8,000 fine from UEFA for being too generous with gifts to referee John Gordon and his linesmen in a previous tie (see World Soccer Diary), then they had three 'goals' disallowed for offside as they had to fight back from 0-2 down against Manchester City. Without the injured Peter Barnes and Mike Channon, City went ahead through a Brian Kidd header and increased that lead after Paul Power — back after a seven-week injury absence — raced 85 yards from one end of the pitch to the other to shoot in off Ricky Albertosi's body.

Milan's cause looked hopeless and the first of a hail of varied missiles began to land in Joe Corrigan's penalty area before Albertino Bigon headed in a Ruben Buriani cross for the first goal and hit in a Walter Novellino through ball for the equaliser. The Milan fans were so disappointed that a minor riot erupted after the game and police used tear gas to scatter the disgruntled *tifosi*.

Third round — second legs (December 6)

Ajax Amsterdam 2 (Clarke 44 own goal, Tahamata 67)
Honved 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 22,000. **Ref:** Lamo Castillo (Sp).
Honved 4-3 on agg

Arsenal 1 (Sunderland 69)
Red Star Belgrade 1 (Savic 87)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 41,566. **Ref:** U. Ericsson (Swe).
Red Star 2-1 on agg

"Arsenal amble out" ran one headline the following morning, for they showed none of the speedy determination usually demonstrated by home teams aiming to recover from a one-goal deficit. Indeed in the first half it was centre backs David O'Leary and Willie Young who were their best players as Red Star took up the advantage. Pat Jennings had to turn a fine shot from Muslin over the bar too before Arsenal manager Terry Neill provided a half-time pep talk which woke up his team. In the space of two minutes Frank Stapleton went close with a header and a shot and the impatient fans began to chant for the introduction of Malcolm Macdonald, fit again after knee trouble. In the 65th minute he replaced Graham Rix and three minutes later Mark Heeley crossed from the right for Alan Sunderland to head past Stojanovic.

With extra time looming Arsenal lost Heeley in the 85th minute after a foul which cost Milosavljevic a booking, and while they were down to 10 men a neat backheel from 'Pigeon' Petrovic sent in Cvijetin Blagojevic to give Dusan Savic the chance to send Red Star into the quarter finals.

Dukla Praha 4 (D. Hoeness own goal 24, Vizek 46, Pelc 51 pen, Gajdusek 86)
VfB Stuttgart 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 29,000. **Ref:** Van Langenhove (Bel).
Dukla 5-4 on agg

In icy conditions few people expected Dukla could overturn the 4-1 first leg defeat, even after Dieter Hoeness had provided a gift of an own goal. In fact Dukla's fans jeered their team off at half-time. But in six minutes after the break one goal from Ladislav Vizek and another from the penalty spot by Stanislav Pelc put them ahead on the away goal and Gajdusek wrapped it all up with a clever shot from the edge of the box.

Hertha W. Berlin 4 (Milewski 3, 25, 33, 53)
Esbjerg 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 3,295. **Ref:** Fausek (Cz).
Hertha 5-1 on agg.

Manchester City 3 (Booth 15, Hartford 33, Kidd 43)
AC Milan 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 38,026. **Ref:** Aldinger (WG)
Man. City 5-2 on agg

Scotland midfielder Asa Hartford was City's hero, creating the first and third goals with his crosses and scoring the second from just outside the penalty box. Peter Barnes provided all sorts of trouble with his speed and Milan were well beaten, despite their gamble of substituting Gianni Rivera at half-time. City's Ged Keegan and Milan's Gollovati and Sartori were booked, and the nearest the Italians came to scoring was in the fourth minute when Antonelli had a shot cleared off the line.

MSV Duisburg 4 (Worm 32, Weber 42 and 76, Fruck 48)
Strasbourg 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 18,000. **Ref:** Menegali (It).
MSV 4-0 on agg

Slask Wroclaw 2 (Pawlowski 27 pen and 50)
Borussia Mg 4 (Simonsen 37, 87 and 89, Nielsen 48)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Partridge (Eng)
Borussia 5-3 on agg

Borussia confirmed their reputation as the most dangerous away team in Europe thanks to European footballer of the year Allan Simonsen, who headed in his first from a corner, took a rebound for his second and curled in a brilliant free kick to complete his hat-trick. Playing at a temperature of minus 11 degrees centigrade Slask were ahead only for 10 brief minutes in the first half when Tadeusz Pawlowski converted a penalty after he had been brought down.

West Bromwich 2 (T. Brown 5 pen and 80)
Valencia 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 34,471. **Ref:** Wurtz (Fr).
West Bromwich 3-1 on agg

A disputed penalty sent West Brom on their way, after Cordero stopped a Derek Statham free kick with his arm. Tony Brown, West Brom's record scorer, shot in but there were few other first half chances. In the second period West Brom brought on John Trewick for Len Cantello and Laurie Cunningham headed a pass from Cyrille Regis against a post. Valencia then began to enter the game for the first time, but the nearest they came was a Mario Kempes free kick which had Tony Godden struggling. Finally, in the 80th minute, Cunningham hit a right wing cross which Tony Brown slammed in first-time. Valencia had defenders Arias and Carrete and forward Diarte booked.

Manchester City centre-half Dave Watson.

Mihalj Keri (white shirt) of Red Star Belgrade can only watch as Arsenal striker Frank Stapleton takes off to head wide during their UEFA Cup, third round, second leg, tie at Highbury. The match ended 1-1.

Internationals

CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S failure in the World Cup qualifiers had, in many eyes, devalued their European championship success of 1976.

But their ability to defend their title tenaciously was underlined in November, when they began by beating Italy 3-0 in Bratislava, then ran rings round England for 45 minutes at Wembley before losing unluckily 1-0.

Former Slovan Bratislava half back Josef Venglos has the air of a man who knows exactly the manner in which he wants to bring his rebuilt team to their peak.

The Czechs, despite being holders must qualify for the Euro-champ finals in 1980, unlike the Italians. But the prospective hosts clearly have problems. Manager Enzo Bearzot put out his best World Cup side, including fit-again Paolo Rossi, in Bratislava and must have been extremely concerned at the lack of spirit.

Concerned too by the expulsion of Giancarlo Antognoni who has been promising so much for so long that Bearzot — one of his greatest admirers — must be wondering whether he will ever blossom into the consistency needed.

The Italians blamed their defeat on having to play on a Wednesday after a weekend league programme, but I don't remember them complaining about the busy nature of the World Cup!

Elsewhere the European championship continued, with Spain taking two useful points off Rumania despite the two-year UEFA ban inflicted on star forward Juanito for butting a referee after a Champions' Cup-tie.

However the major shock of the month was scored by Portugal. Anonymous in the international field since the 1966 World Cup, they scored a 2-1 win over Austria in Vienna to upset all the predictions made about group two of the European competition.

NOVEMBER 8

Bratislava

Czechoslovakia 3 (Jurasek 1, Panenka 53, Masny 87 pen)
Italy 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 40,000. **Ref:** Wöhrer (Aus).

An unfriendly friendly, with that controversial referee Wöhrer sending off Giancarlo Antognoni in the 54th mintue for kicking Anton Ondrus. This was the second sending-off of Antognoni's senior career, the other having been in a UEFA Cup-tie. There were bookings too for Claudio Gentile and Mario Bellugi as Italy found the European champions uncompromisingly resilient. The Italians had several spells of domination in midfield, but in attack there was no penetration and anxiety built up quickly because of the way Karel Jarusek took advantage of that first-minute opening created by Marian Masny. Jarusek went off in the 52nd minute and it was his substitute, Antonin Panenka, with virtually his first touch of the ball to a short cross from Zdenek Nehoda, who made it 2-0. It remained only for Masny to wrap up the scoring with his late penalty after Nehoda was felled.

Czechoslovakia: Michalik — Barmos, Ondrus, Vojacek, Gogh — Kozak, Stambachr, Jarusek (Panenka 52) — Masny, Nehoda, Gajdusek.

Italy: Zoff — Gentile, Bellugi, Scirea, Cabrini — Causio, Benetti, Tardelli (C. Sala 74), Antognoni — Rossi, Bettega (Graziani 74).

Paris

France 1 (Specht 42)
Spain 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 43,500. **Ref:** Eschweiler (WG)

Ironically by far the game's outstanding player was Juanito, the Spanish striker, who was to learn the next day that he had been banned for two years from all UEFA competitions. "If I'd known that," said Ladislao Kubala, the much-criticised Spanish boss, "I'd never have picked him with the Rumania championship tie next week." Be that as it may Juanito was involved in one of the game's most controversial incidents.

Late in the match with Spain trailing undeservedly to a goal from Strasbourg debutant Leonard Specht, Juanito went clear only to be rugby-tackled by Gerard Janvion. It was our old friend the 'professional' foul, and not a few Frenchmen as well as neutrals and Spaniards felt the Saint-Etienne defender deserved the red card. Yellow was all he got and Spain went nowhere from the free kick. The strange result was that the following day the French newspapers agreed they had been lucky to beat a better team; the Spanish acknowledged the French as deserved winners! The goal was lucky. Didier Six looped over a free kick which Specht headed cleanly, but straight at Miguel Angel, who fumbled it against the post and over the line. Spain might have pulled back had Kubala not substituted Asensi, Villar and Rojo at half-time, while the French gained from the substitution of Albert Gemmrich for unimpressive newcomer Pierre Pleimelling at centre forward. Because of injuries manager Michel Hidalgo was without Marius Tresor, Bernard Lacombe and, of course, Michel Platini.

France: Dropsy — Battiston, Specht, Lopez, Janvion — Piesecki, Petit, Michel — Rocheteau (Soler 74), Pleimelding (Gemmrich 56), Six.

Spain: Miguel Angel — Marcelino, Migueli, Olmo, Escalza — Del Bosque, Villar (Solsona 46), Asensi (Leal 46) — Juanito, Santillana, Rojo (Saura 46).

NOVEMBER 15

Vienna — EC group two

Austria 1 (Schachner 71)
Portugal 2 (Nene 30, Alberto 90)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 62,000. **Ref:** Rainea (Rum).

An astonishing result considering the Austrians' World Cup showing and Portugal's 12-year-spell in the doldrums. And all the more remarkable when you consider that the Portuguese had to make do without defender Eurico and star forward Fernando Chalana. The win, taken against the run of play, was Portugal's first over Austria, and the last time they played in Vienna — in the World Cup qualifiers in 1953 — they lost 9-1!

Costa sent Nene in for his goal on the half-hour but the Austrians deserved Walter Schachner's equaliser, set up by Hans Krankl. In the closing stages the Austrians threw everyone forward and were caught by the sucker punch from defender Alberto. Not a happy return after injury for Austrian goalkeeper Friedl Koncilia! "We expected them to be strong, but not this strong," said Schachner, while Portugal manager Mario Wilson, beaming all over his

Tony Currie (left) in action for England against Czechoslovakia.

Steve Coppell watches as the ball crosses the line for England's goal against Czechoslovakia at Wembley.

face, proclaimed: "Our tactics worked 100 per cent. We knew they would attack the whole time, so we waited for our chances — and then took them!"

Austria: Koncilia — R. Sara, Obermayer, Pezzey, Strasser — Prohaska, Hattenberger, Jara (Baumeister) — Schachner, Krankl, Kreuz (Gasselich).

Portugal: Bento — Artur, Humberto, Alhinho, Alberto — Pietra, Teixeira, Costa, Oliveira (Sheu), Alves — Nene (Gomes).

Valencia — EC group three

Spain 1 (Asensi 9)
Rumania 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 46,000. **Ref:** Keizer (Hol).

The Rumanians were, because of injury, unfortunately minus key defender Satmareanu for this holding battle and were caught out early on when Spanish skipper Juan Manuel Asensi headed in a pass from Villar. Two minutes later Spain could have gone two ahead when newcomer Juan Carlos Heredia — Barcelona's Argentine-born striker — allowed goalkeeper Comar to snatch the ball from his feet. Comar made a good save in the 88th minute to turn a Del Bosque shot for a corner while at the other end Miguel Angel did well to stop an effort from Rumania's captain and best player, Iordanescu. While Spain dominated the first, Rumania made matters uncomfortable in the second half, without seriously troubling Miguel Angel until that late bid from Iordanescu.

Spain: Miguel Angel — Marcelino, Migueli, Alesanco, Carrete — Villar, Del Bosque, Asensi — Heredia (Saura 76), Santillana, Rojo (Ruben Cano 63).

Rumania: Comar — Zamfir, Sames, Stefanescu, Vigu — Romila, Iordanescu, Boloni — Crisan, Georgescu, Radulescu.

Rotterdam — EC group four

Holland 3 (Kische own goal 17, Geels 73 pen, 88)
East Germany 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 47,000. **Ref:** Ericsson (Swe)

Dutch manager Jan Zwartkruis had several injury problems to resolve before he could send out his men. Both Wim Jansen and Jan Poortvliet had to cry off the day before the game and the fitness of Rob Rensenbrink was in doubt almost up until kick-off. Nevertheless Holland found the cohesion to out-play the East Germans and well deserved the points.

Despite facing the stiff gusty wind in the first half Holland were soon on top and went ahead when Gerd Kische stuck a Rene Van der Kerkhof corner into his own net past Jurgen Croy, in his 91st international. Croy made several good saves to keep East Germany in the game and then it was Piet Schrijvers's turn early in the second half before two goals from the returning Ruud Geels sewed it up. Geels scored his first from a penalty after Piet Wildschut was brought down, and his second by heading home a cross from substitute Adrie Koster.

Holland: Schrijvers — Hovenkamp, Krol, Brandts, Van Kraay — Wildschut, Peters, Neeskens (Metgod) — R. Van der Kerkhof (Koster), Geels, Rensenbrink.

E. Germany: Croy — Kische, Doerner, Schnuphase, Weber — Eigendorf (Netz), Haefner, Lindemann, Schade (Peter) — Riediger, Hoffman.

Wroclaw — EC group four

Poland 2 (Boniek 30, Ogaza 57)
Switzerland 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 45,000. **Ref:** Wöhrer.

Poland's caretaker manager Ryszard Kulesza went boldly for attack, with only three men at the back and four strikers and his tactics paid. The Swiss hardly had one shot at goal and only some hasty clearances and fine saves from stand-in goalkeeper Karl Engel — Erich Burgener was injured — kept the scoreline down. Zbigniew Boniek, veteran Leslaw Cmikiewicz and Grzegorz Lato were all close before Boniek finally converted Roman Ogaza's pass for No 1.

A defensive slip let Boniek through in the second half, and though Engel parried his shot, Ogaza was following up to score. For Switzerland Claudio Sulser did have two half-chances but first he delayed too long and Wladyslaw Zmuda cleared, the second time Zygmunt Kukla saved. No sendings-off this time for Herr Wöhrer!

Poland: Kukla — Szymanowski, Zmuda, Maculewicz — Cmikiewicz, Majewski (Rudy 84), Nawalka — Lato, Ogaza, Boniek, Terlecki.

Switzerland: Engel — Brechbühl, Montandon, Chapuisat, Bizzini — Botteron, Schnyder, Meyer — Elsener (Ponte 46), Sulser, Barberis.

Skopje — Balkan Cup semi-final

Yugoslavia 4 (Halilhodzic 33, 59, 83, Savic 49)
Greece 1 (Mavros 31)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 18,000. **Ref:** Dechev (Bul).
Yugoslavia 4-1 on agg

The Balkan Cup is run at present every three years and Yugoslavia took advantage of this tie to introduce four newcomers following their double failure in the European championship against Spain and Rumania. Ironically, it is Rumania they must face in the Balkan final.

Tel Aviv

Israel 1 (Peretz 56)
Belguim 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 12,000.

Frankfurt

West Germany 0
Hungary 0
Att: 45,000. **Ref:** Wurtz (Fr).

The official 'Farewell to Helmut Schoen' game had to be stopped after an hour because of fog.

Before the kick-off Schoen, during whose 14-year reign West Germany played 139 games, winning 87 and losing 21, was presented with a replica of the World Cup to mark his success four years ago. The evening failed away when the football started. Schoen's successor, Jupp Derwall, had to bring in Rolf Rüssmann at the back because of injury to Karl-Heinz Förster, and Klaus Allofs of Fortuna Düsseldorf made his first full appearance in attack in place of Hansi Müller. The brilliant Stuttgart forward had been dropped after being sent off in a league match the previous weekend. Klaus Fischer headed past Gujdar on the half hour, but referee Robert Wurtz awarded the Hungarians a free kick because of offside. Minutes later Karl-Heinz Rummenigge burst through, but shot wildly.

West Germany: Maier — Kaltz, Zewe, Rüssmann, Dietz — Bonhof, Cullmann, Rummenigge — Abranczik, Fischer, Allofs.

Hungary: Gujdar — Martos, Kereki, Kocsis, Balint — Pal (Zombori 57), Pinter, Tatar — Szokolai, Fekete, Varadi.

NOVEMBER 29

Sofia — EC group one

Bulgaria 0
N. Ireland 2 (Armstrong 17, J. Nicholl 83)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Ok (Turkey).

Bulgarian manager Stefan Ilchev was jeered from the pitch after the Irish took a surprise victory to grab the lead in the group. The Bulgarians dominated the first half but Northern Ireland went ahead after Gerry Armstrong took advantage of a defensive scramble. In the second half the Bulgarians became dispirited, the Irish twice hit the post and finally Chris Nicholl headed on a Cochrane corner for Billy Caskey to steer inside the post for No 2.

Bulgaria: Goranov — Grancharov, P. Stankov, Karakolev, Dimitrov — Sretkov, Gochev, Slavkov — Mladenov (Dzevizov 66), Panov, A. Stankov (Tsvetkov 46).

N. Ireland: Jennings — Hamilton, J. Nicholl, C. Nicholl, Nelson — O'Neill, McIlroy (Moreland 86), McCreery — Cochrane (McGrath 54), Armstrong, Caskey.

Lisbon — EC group two

Portugal 1 (Alberto 29)
Scotland 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 60,000. **Ref:** Dörflinger (Swz).

Alberto Costa, the Benfica left back having such a mixed-up season, was the hero after scoring the only goal. Alberto, sent off in a UEFA Cup tie against Borussia Moenchengladbach, had more than redeemed himself by scoring Portugal's winner in their match in Austria, now he completed the transition from scapegoat to national hero, slipping past Archie Gemmill and Stuart Kennedy before catching the recalled Alan Rough off balance with his shot. Steady drizzle couldn't dampen the Portuguese spirits and though Joe Jordan had a 34th-minute chance — which he wasted — they nearly went two up when Alves found Gomes in front of goal with Rough out of position. Gomes's shot, however, ran the wrong side of the post. In the 50th minute Sheu, a second half substitute, hit Rough's bar, but then Portugal had a let-off when Humberto cleared off the line from Gordon McQueen. The Scots claimed that Humberto punched the ball away, but there was no penalty.

Portugal: Bento — Artur, Humberto Coelho, Alhinho, Alberto — Pietra, Alves, Oliveira (Eurico 78) — Costa (Sheu 46), Gomes, Nene.

Scotland: Rough — Kennedy, McQueen, Buchan, F. Gray (Donachie 65) — Narey, Gemmill, Hartford — Dalglish, Jordan (Wallace 78), Robertson.

Wrexham — group seven

Wales 1 (Deacy 67)
Turkey 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 11,794. **Ref:** Jarguz (Pol).

Wales maintained their 100 per cent record but only thanks to this unconvincing win. They set the pace throughout the game but a long-range shot from Leighton James and diving header by Phil Dwyer were all they had to show in the first half. At the start of the second Necdet forced Dai Davies to a sharp save after a slalom past three defenders, but Wales clinched it when Beringen's Nick Deacy was left unmarked to head in a Brian Flynn cross. Shortly before the end goalkeeper Senol made a brilliant diving stop to another drive from Leighton James.

Wales: Davies — Stevenson, Phillips, Yorath, J. Jones — Flynn, Dwyer, Thomas — Harris, Deacy, James.

Turkey: Senol — Turgay, Erdogan, Cem, Necati, Fatih, Necdet, Nehmet, Eksi, Sedat, Onder, Ahmet.

● *Continued overleaf*

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Wembley

England 1 (Jurkemik own goal 69)
Czechoslovakia 0

HT: 0-0. **Att:** 92,000 (Receipts £300,000). **Ref:** Linemayr (Aus).

A diplomatic sort of result — England won, but the Czechs scored the only goal of the game. In fact, though, the Czechs should have been 4-0 up at half-time and though in the end they were extremely unlucky to lose they proved that they can worthily defend their European championship.

England manager Ron Greenwood rang the changes for virtually the first time in a year to give the Nottingham Forest trio of goalkeeper Peter Shilton, full-back Viv Anderson — the first coloured player to appear for England at senior level — and striker Tony Woodcock chances to stake a long-term claim. While Shilton took his chance magnificently and Anderson competently, poor Woodcock had to be replaced after 36 minutes after a rugged foul by Vojacek. The Czech was fortunate to escape without a yellow card, but referee Erich Linemayr, the first Austrian to control a match at Wembley, gave him the benefit of the doubt, probably because of the icy conditions.

The frost which had turned the pitch white was far more to the Czech taste. They had done their homework better than England, chosen their footwear more carefully and their precise and skilful first half display would have been well-worth the goals which shots from Nehoda (twice), Stambachr and Kozak would have brought against more goalkeepers by the inspired Shilton.

England reappraised the situation at half-time, decided to simplify their style of football and with the Czechs taking too much of a breather at the start of the second period, it was England who now dominated. They never looked as inventive or imaginative and were presented with the goal. Anderson raided up the right and passed out to Tony Currie. His hard, low cross to the near post caught Michalik scrambling and as he dived forward to parry the ball it spun off his fists, hit the heel of Jurkemik and rebounded over the goal-line. Steve Coppell didn't arrive to claim the goal until the ball was clearly over.

England: Shilton — Anderson, Watson, Thompson, Cherry — Coppell, Wilkins, Currie, Barnes — Keegan, Woodcock (Latchford 36).

Czechoslovakia: Michalik — Barmos, Vojacek, Jurkemik, Gogh — Kozak, Jarusek (Panenka 75), Stambachr, Gajdusek — Masny, Nehoda.

EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMP. — Group two: Portugal 0, Scotland 3. Group four: E. Germany 2, Holland 0. Group seven: Rumania 2, Turkey 1. Group eight: Luzembourg 0, Switzerland 3.

OTHER GAMES. — Spain U-21 1, France U-21 1 — W. Germany B 3, Hungary B 0 — Bulgaria 2, Un. Craiova 1 — Italy B 1, Switzerland 0.

South America

SOUTH AMERICAN CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

(Libertadores Cup)

NOVEMBER 23
(1st leg in Cali)

DEPORTIVO CALI (Colombia) 0
BOCA JUNIORS (Argentina) 0

Den Cali: Zape, Ospina, Caicedo, Escobar, Castro (Correa), Otero (Jaramillo), Landucci, Valverde, Torres, Scotta, Benitez.

Boca Juniors: Rodriguez, Pernia, Sa, Mouzo, Bordon, Benitez, Suñe, Zanabria, Mastrangelo, Salinas, Perotti.

NOVEMBER 28
(2nd leg in Buenos Aires)

BOCA JUNIORS (Argentina) (1) 4 (Perotti 2, Mastrangelo, Salinas)
DEPORTIVO CALI (Colombia) (0) 0 (Boca won 4-0 on aggregate)

Boca Juniors: Gatti, Pernia, Sa, Mouzo, Bordon, J. Benitez (Veglio), Suñe, Zanabria, Mastrangelo, Salinas, Perotti.

Den. Cali: Zape, Ospina (Castro), Escobar, Caicedo, Correa, Valverde, Utero (Umaña), Landucci, Torres, Scotta, A. Benitez. (Castro sent off 89m.).

League Tables

SOUTH AMERICAN LEAGUE STANDINGS

ARGENTINA

Metropolitan First Division (final standings)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Quilmes	40	22	10	8	53	41	54
Boca Juniors	40	20	13	10	58	45	53
Union Santa Fe	40	20	12	8	58	36	52
San Lorenzo	40	17	13	10	47	41	47
Argentinos Juniors	40	17	12	11	66	52	46
River Plate	40	16	13	11	59	47	45
Newell's Old Boys	40	14	16	10	52	36	44
Independiente	40	16	13	12	69	54	43
Racing	40	15	12	13	58	46	42
Rosario Central	40	13	16	11	43	32	42
Gimnasia La Plata	40	11	18	11	41	44	40
Colon Sta Fe	40	14	11	15	60	59	39
Atlanta	40	10	17	13	49	56	37
Estudiantes La Plata	40	13	10	17	59	51	36
Huracan	40	11	13	16	47	46	35
Velez Sarsfield	40	10	15	15	35	39	35
All Boys	40	10	11	19	34	58	31
Chacarita Juniors	40	11	9	20	39	69	31
Platense	40	8	14	18	41	63	30
Banfield	40	7	15	18	43	66	29
Estudiantes BA	40	8	13	19	43	73	29

National Championship (after four games)

Group A: 1. Newell's Old Boys (Rosario) and Estudiantes de La Plata 6 pts.0 3. Talleres Cordoba 5; 4. Racing Club, FC Oeste 4; 6. Atletico Ledesma, All Boys 3; 8. Juv. Antoniana Salta 1.

Group B: 1. Huracan 7; 2. Union Sta Fe 6; 3. Atletico Tucuman, Boca Juniors, Chacarita Juniors 5; 6. Gimnasia Mendoza 2; 7. Platense, Patronato Entre Rios 1.

Group C: 1. Independiente 7; 2. Gimnasia La Plata, Velez Sarsfield 6; 4. Deportivo Roca (Rio Negro) 5; 5. Altos Hornos Zapla 3; 6. Racing Cordoba, Argentinos Juniors 2; 8. Rosario Central 1.

Group D: 1. River Plate 8; 2. Colon Sta Fe 6; 3. San Lorenzo 5; 4. San Martin Tucuman 4; 5. Quilmes, Alvardo Mar del Plata 3; 7. San Martin Mendoza 2; 8. Atlanta 1.

(Top two of each group qualify for quarter finals after 14 games).

BRAZIL (leaders)

Carioca Championship: 1. Vasco da Gama 16 pts.; 2. Flamengo 14; 3. Fluminense, Botafogo 12.

Minas Gerais Championship: 1. Cruzeiro, America 8 pts.; 3. Valerio 6; 4. Nacional 5. (Final round).

Bahia Champ: 1. Bahia 12 pts.; 2. Vitoria 11; 3. Atletico 10; 4. Itabuna, Leonico 8.

Fortaleza: 1. Ceara 12 pts.; 2. Ferroviario 9; 3. Fortaleza 7; 4. Guarani 6.

Porto Alegre: 1. Gremio 6 pts.; 2. Internacional 5; 3. Esportivo, Juventude 3. (Final round).

Sao Paulo: Group A: 1. Ponte Preta 24 pts.; 2. Santos 23; 3. Paulista 17; 4. Noroeste 16; 5. Portuguesa Santista 7. Group B: 1. Sao Paulo 28; 2. Portuguesa de Desportos 18; 3. Francana, Juventus 17; 5. 15 de Piracicaba 16. Group C: 1. Guarani 28; 2. Corintians 26; 3. Comercial 21; 4. Sao Bento 17; 5. Marilia 15. Group D: 1. Palmeiras 24; 2. 15 de Jau 20; 3. Botafogo 19; 4. America 16; 5. Ferroviaria 9. (Final qualifying standings).

Goias: 1. Vila Nova 31 pts.; 2. Atletico 27; 3. Goias 26; 4. Goiana 22.

Brazilia: 1. Gama 7; 2. Brasilia 5; 3. Gremio, Bandeirante 3.

Santa Catarina: 1. Joinville 25 pts.; 2. Chapecoense 22; 3. Figueirense, Joacaba 20.

COLOMBIA

(Finalizacion Championship final standings)

Group A	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
America	21	10	7	4	30	23	27
Millionarios	21	10	6	5	32	26	26
Nacional	21	10	3	8	25	18	23
Cucuta	21	7	8	6	25	27	22
Santa Fe	21	8	6	7	38	31	22
Deportivo Cali	21	5	6	10	27	33	16
Bucaramanga	21	4	8	9	26	30	16

Group B:	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cristal Caldas	21	11	6	4	39	25	28
Atletico Junior	21	10	5	6	37	28	25
Union Magdalena	21	9	6	6	28	23	24
Pereira	21	8	5	8	28	30	21
Tolima	21	4	8	9	21	35	16
Quindio	21	5	5	11	20	31	15
Medellin	21	2	9	10	18	34	13

(Top two of each group plus Nacional and Deportivo Cali (1st and 2nd in "Apertura" Championship) plus Santa Fe and Cucuta (two other clubs to have obtained most points in both championships) qualified for semi-final round.)

Semi-final group A	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Deportivo Cali	6	2	3	1	7	5	7
Nacional	6	3	1	2	6	7	7
Atletico Junior	6	1	4	1	6	5	6
Cristal Caldas	6	1	2	3	5	7	4

Semi-final group B	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sante Fe	6	3	2	1	17	12	8
Millionarios	6	2	2	2	8	9	6
America	6	1	3	2	11	13	5
Cucuta	6	1	3	2	10	12	5

(Top two of each group qualify for final round).

BOLIVIA

(National Championship)

Group A: 1. San José 17 pts.; 2. Petrolero, Car Bolivia 16; 4. The Strongest 15; 5. Oriente Petrolero 14; 6. Stormes 12; 7. Guabira 8; 8. Aurora 7.

Group B: 1. Bolivar 17; 2. Bata, Real Santa Cruz, Wilsterman, Municipal 13; 6. Independiente Unificada 12; 7. Blooming 11; 8. 20 de Agostso 3.

CHILE

First Division final standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Palestino	34	23	7	4	73	33	53
Cobreola	34	22	5	7	69	37	49
O'Higgins	34	17	8	9	64	37	42
Union Espanola	34	17	7	10	53	42	41
Everton	34	14	12	8	56	49	40
Colo Colo	34	15	7	12	62	55	37
Universidad de Chile	34	11	14	9	41	33	36
Aviacion	34	12	10	12	50	51	34
Universidad Catolica	34	11	11	12	44	37	33
Audax Italiano	34	10	13	11	14	39	33
Lota Schwager	34	9	15	10	33	45	33
Green Cross	34	10	12	12	52	57	32
Santiago Morning	34	10	12	12	44	51	32
Concepcion	34	12	8	14	44	47	32
Nublense	34	10	10	14	34	48	30
Coquimbo	34	8	8	18	41	55	24
Huachipato	34	5	7	22	27	55	17
Rangers	34	5	4	26	28	84	14

PERU

National Championships

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Universitario	22	15	0	7	43	23	30
Alianza Lima	22	13	3	6	44	15	29
Melgar	21	10	7	4	31	22	27
Juan Aurich	22	9	9	4	29	19	27
Sporting Cristal	20	11	4	5	36	23	26
Coronel Bolognesi	22	8	8	6	23	24	24
Leon de Huanuco	22	8	7	7	18	23	23
Sport Boys	22	7	8	7	29	31	22
Union Huaral	22	8	6	8	33	35	22
Atletico Torino	22	8	4	10	30	31	20
Colegio Nac. Iquitos	22	6	7	9	22	29	19
Atletico Chalaco	22	6	6	10	27	33	18
Deportivo Municipal	22	7	3	12	23	25	17
Deportivo Junin	21	6	5	10	27	44	17
Defensor Lima	22	6	3	13	31	49	15
Alfonso Ugarte	22	4	5	13	25	45	13

ECUADOR

Closing Championship

Group A: 1. Nacional (Quito), Barcelona (Guayaquil) 19 pts.; 3. Bonita Banana (Machala) 18; 4. Tecnico Universitario (Ambato), Emelec (Guayaquil) 17; 6. Deportivo Quito, Universidad Catolica (Quito) 13; 8. Universidad de Portoviejo 12; 9. Deportivo Cuenca 11; 10. Union Valdez (Milagro) 9.

Group B: (leaders): 1. Liga Deportiva Universitaria (Quito), America (Quito), Liga Deportiva Universitaria (Cuenca) 23 pts.

VENEZUELA

Professional League
(final round final standings)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Portuguesa	10	5	4	1	17	7	14
Estudiantes	10	6	1	3	13	7	13
Galicia	10	5	2	3	12	8	12
Portugues	10	2	4	4	13	15	8
Univ. de los Andes	10	3	1	6	9	18	7
Valencia	10	2	2	6	12	21	6

SWITZERLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Zürich	16	8	6	2	31	16	22
St. Gallen	16	11	0	5	34	26	22
Servette	16	8	5	3	41	18	21
Young Boys	16	9	3	4	27	24	21
Basel	16	8	4	4	30	23	20
Grasshoppers	16	6	6	4	24	20	18
Neuchâtel X	16	6	5	5	32	25	17
Chênois	16	6	4	6	22	20	16
Lausanne	16	4	3	9	23	32	11
Nordstern	16	1	7	8	14	29	9
Chiasso	16	3	3	10	17	34	9
Sion	16	1	4	11	12	40	6

League Tables

FRANCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Strasbourg	21	11	8	2	37	18	30
St-Etienne	22	12	5	5	45	23	29
Nantes	22	12	4	6	46	22	28
Monaco	22	12	4	6	42	27	28
Bordeaux	22	8	10	4	29	20	26
Lyon	22	10	6	6	38	29	26
Metz	22	10	5	7	33	31	25
Sochaux	21	9	6	6	35	27	24
Lille	22	7	10	5	41	39	24
Nimes	22	8	5	9	35	32	21
Bastia	22	7	7	8	35	38	21
Laval	22	6	9	7	33	40	21
Nancy	22	7	5	10	42	37	19
Paris St-Germain	22	7	5	10	32	37	19
Angers	22	7	5	10	24	44	19
Marseille	22	5	7	10	27	36	17
Valenciennes	22	6	5	11	23	36	17
Paris	22	6	5	11	26	40	17
Nice	22	5	5	12	31	53	15
Reims	22	2	8	12	14	40	12

HUNGARY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Honved	15	10	3	2	39	12	23
Ujpest Dozsa	15	8	6	1	40	20	22
Ferencvaros	15	8	5	2	33	19	21
Diosgyor	15	9	2	4	24	23	20
Raba Eto	15	5	7	3	17	12	17
Tatabanya	15	6	5	4	25	22	17
Salgotarjan	15	5	5	5	24	22	15
Videoton	15	5	5	5	19	18	15
Pecs	15	5	5	5	12	18	15
Bekescsaba	15	5	3	7	15	16	13
Vasas	15	4	5	6	21	25	13
Dunaujvaros	15	4	5	6	20	26	13
Csepel	15	3	6	6	20	23	12
Zalegerszeg	15	3	6	6	11	16	12
Haladas	15	5	2	8	18	32	12
MTK/VM	15	4	3	8	19	22	11
Mav Elore	15	4	3	8	11	29	11
Vasas Izzo	15	2	4	9	17	30	8

HOLLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Roda JC Kerkrade	15	9	5	1	29	11	23
Ajax Amsterdam	15	10	2	3	41	13	22
PSV Eindhoven	15	9	3	3	29	10	21
AZ'67 Alkmaar	15	9	2	4	51	25	20
Feyenoord R'dam	15	6	7	2	20	8	19
Go Ahead Deventer	15	6	5	4	21	17	17
Sparta Rotterdam	15	7	3	5	19	17	17
MVV Maastricht	15	6	5	4	14	16	17
Twente Enschede	15	4	8	3	18	13	16
Utrecht	15	5	4	6	25	28	14
PEC Zwolle	15	2	8	5	12	20	12
NAC Breda	15	3	6	6	18	29	12
Vitesse Arnhem	15	3	6	6	19	32	12
Haarlem	15	3	6	6	12	28	12
NEC Nijmegen	15	2	7	6	12	22	11
Den Haag	15	2	6	7	12	26	10
Volendam	15	2	4	9	16	31	8
VVV Venlo	15	2	3	10	9	33	7

AUSTRIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Austria WAC	16	11	1	4	38	20	23
Rapid	16	8	4	4	23	15	20
Austria Salzburg	16	8	2	6	15	22	18
VOeEST Linz	15	7	3	5	17	15	17
Wiener SK/Post	16	5	6	5	29	20	16
Sturm Graz	15	5	4	6	17	23	14
Admira/Wacker	16	4	5	7	17	19	13
SSW Innsbruck	15	4	4	7	20	21	12
Vienna	15	4	4	7	22	33	12
Grazer AK	16	3	5	8	17	27	11

PORTUGAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Benfica	11	8	0	3	20	6	16
Porto	11	5	5	1	15	6	15
Varzim	11	5	4	2	15	10	14
Sporting	11	6	2	3	15	11	14
Braga	11	6	1	4	17	11	13
Guimaraes	11	5	2	4	16	12	12
Barreirense	11	5	2	4	12	9	12
Belenenses	11	5	2	4	20	17	12
Famalicao	11	4	4	3	8	9	12
Estoril	11	3	5	3	10	12	11
Academico Coimbra	10	3	3	4	8	11	9
Setubal	10	3	2	5	10	15	8
Boavista	11	3	2	6	11	15	8
Beira-Mar	11	3	1	7	15	22	7
Maritimo Funchal	11	2	3	6	8	17	7
Viseu	11	2	0	9	3	20	4

SPAIN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Real Madrid	11	6	5	0	25	15	17
Athletic Bilbao	12	6	3	3	21	11	15
Atletico Madrid	12	5	5	2	26	21	15
Gijon	12	6	2	4	16	13	14
Las Palmas	12	5	4	3	17	14	14
Barcelona	12	6	1	5	24	15	13
Sevilla	12	4	5	3	21	16	13
Valencia	12	5	3	4	13	12	13
Español Barcelona	11	6	0	5	16	15	12
Real Sociedad	12	5	2	5	16	15	12
Burgos	12	2	8	2	15	16	12
Salamanca	12	4	3	5	12	16	11
Real Zaragoza	12	5	0	7	20	20	10
Rayo Vallecano	12	4	2	6	16	20	10
Santander	12	4	2	6	16	22	10
Huelva	12	4	2	6	13	22	10
Celta Vigo	12	1	3	8	7	22	5

ENGLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Liverpool	18	13	3	2	42	8	29
Everton	17	10	7	0	24	10	27
West Bromwich	16	9	5	2	31	14	23
Nottingham F.	16	7	9	0	19	9	23
Arsenal	17	8	6	3	28	17	22
Coventry	17	7	6	4	24	23	20
Manchester United	17	7	6	4	24	27	20
Tottenham	17	7	6	4	21	26	20
Leeds United	18	7	5	6	33	24	19
Aston Villa	17	6	6	5	22	16	18
Bristol City	18	7	3	7	21	21	18
Derby County	18	7	3	8	24	34	17
Manchester City	16	5	6	5	24	20	16
Norwich	16	4	7	5	28	28	15
Southampton	18	4	7	7	19	27	15
Ipswich	18	6	2	10	20	27	14
Middlesbrough	17	5	3	9	21	23	13
Queens PR	17	3	6	8	13	22	12
Bolton	18	4	4	10	22	36	12
Wolverhampton	17	4	1	12	13	32	9
Birmingham	18	2	4	12	17	30	8
Chelsea	17	2	4	11	19	35	8

WEST GERMANY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kaiserslautern	16	10	5	1	34	18	25
Hamburg	15	9	3	3	32	12	21
Stuttgart	15	8	4	3	26	17	20
Duesseldorf	16	7	4	5	36	26	18
Bayern Munich	16	7	4	5	33	24	18
Frankfurt	16	8	2	6	26	24	18
Schalke 04	16	5	5	6	30	23	17
Dortmund	16	6	4	6	28	35	16
Moenchengladbach	15	5	4	6	23	18	14
Bochum	15	5	4	6	25	24	14
Cologne	15	4	6	5	19	19	14
Bielefeld	15	5	4	6	16	20	14
Brunswick	15	5	4	6	20	28	14
Hertha Berlin	15	3	7	5	20	21	13
Bremen	16	4	5	7	21	29	13
Duisburg	16	5	3	8	22	36	13
Darmstadt	15	2	5	8	20	34	9
Nuremberg	15	3	1	11	12	35	7

ITALY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Milan	10	6	3	1	17	7	15
Perugia	10	5	5	0	11	3	15
Inter	10	4	5	1	15	8	13
Juventus	10	4	5	1	13	7	13
Torino	10	4	5	1	13	8	13
Fiorentina	10	4	4	2	10	8	12
Catanzaro	12	2	7	1	6	5	11
Napoli	10	3	5	2	8	7	11
Lazio	10	3	4	3	12	17	10
Ascoli	10	2	4	4	11	12	8
Bologna	10	1	5	4	8	10	7
Avellino	10	1	5	4	6	9	7
Roma	10	2	3	5	5	10	7
Vicenza	10	2	3	5	10	18	7
Verona	10	1	4	5	7	15	6
Atalanta	10	0	5	5	5	13	5

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dukla	15	11	1	3	41	11	23
Banik Ostrava	15	9	3	3	28	13	21
Brno	15	8	3	4	33	17	19
Trnava	15	3	9	3	15	15	15
Dukla B. Bystrica	15	7	1	7	28	31	15
Bohemians	15	5	5	5	21	24	15
Inter Bratislava	15	6	2	7	18	17	14
Sparta	15	5	4	6	19	16	14
Slovan Bratislava	15	5	4	6	21	20	14
Lok. Kosice	15	7	0	8	25	25	14
Trencin	15	6	2	7	19	26	14
Slavia	15	5	3	7	25	29	13
Presov	15	4	5	6	11	25	13
VSS Kosice	15	6	1	8	20	36	13
Pizen	15	4	4	7	15	24	12
Teplice	15	4	3	8	19	27	11

BELGIUM

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Beveren-Waas	14	8	5	1	25	10	21
Anderlecht	15	9	1	5	39	18	19
Antwerp	15	6	7	2	18	11	19
RWD Molenbeek	14	7	3	4	22	18	17
Standard	15	6	5	4	22	16	17
Bruges	15	5	7	3	20	15	17
Lokeen	15	6	5	4	19	17	17
Beringen	15	5	7	3	18	17	17
Waterschei	14	5	6	3	16	13	16
Beerschot	15	6	3	6	20	19	15
Winterslag	15	4	6	5	20	20	14
Lierse	15	6	2	7	20	21	14
SC Charleroi	15	5	2	8	16	24	12
Waregem	14	2	7	5	12	21	11
Bechem	15	2	7	6	11	21	11
La Louvière	15	3	4	8	21	36	10
Liege	14	3	3	8	15	25	9
Kortrijk	14	2	4	8	7	19	8

Graham Souness (centre) of Liverpool in action against Queens Park Rangers, represented by John Hollins (left) and Dave Clement.

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

Group 1

England, Bulgaria, Denmark, Northern Ireland, Ireland Rep.

24. 5.78	Denmark 3 Ireland Rep. 3
20. 9.78	Ireland Rep. 0 N. Ireland 0
20. 9.78	Denmark 3 England 4
11.10.78	Denmark 2 Bulgaria 2
25.10.78	Ireland Rep. 1 England 1
25.10.78	Northern Ireland 2 Denmark 1
29.11.78	Bulgaria 0 N. Ireland 2
7. 2.79	England v. N. Ireland
2. 5.79	Ireland Rep. v. Denmark
2. 5.79	Northern Ireland v. Bulgaria
23. 5.79	Bulgaria v. Ireland Rep.
6. 6.79	Bulgaria v. England
6. 6.79	Denmark v. N. Ireland
12. 9.79	England v. Denmark
17.10.79	Ireland Rep. v. Bulgaria
17.10.79	Northern Ireland v. England
31.10.79	Bulgaria v. Denmark
21.11.79	England v. Bulgaria
21.11.79	N. Ireland v. Ireland Rep.
6. 2.80	England v. Ireland Rep.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
N. Ireland	3	2	1	0	4	1	5
England	2	1	1	0	5	4	3
Eire	3	0	3	0	4	4	3
Denmark	4	0	2	2	9	11	2
Bulgaria	2	0	1	1	2	4	1

Group 2

Austria, Belgium, Scotland, Norway, Portugal

30. 8.78	Norway 1 Austria 2
20. 9.78	Belgium 1 Norway 1
20. 9.78	Austria 3 Scotland 2
11.10.78	Portugal 1 Belgium 1
25.10.78	Scotland 3 Norway 2
15.11.78	Austria 1 Portugal 2
29.11.78	Portugal 1 Scotland 0
7. 2.79	Scotland v. Belgium
28. 3.79	Belgium v. Austria
2. 5.79	Austria v. Belgium
10/15.5.79	Norway v. Portugal
7. 6.79	Norway v. Scotland
29. 8.79	Austria v. Norway
12. 9.79	Norway v. Belgium
17.10.79	Belgium v. Portugal
17.10.79	Scotland v. Austria
1.11.79	Portugal v. Norway
21.11.79	Belgium v. Scotland
21.11.79	Portugal v. Austria
6. 2.80	Scotland v. Portugal

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Portugal	3	2	1	0	4	2	5
Austria	3	2	0	1	6	4	4
Scotland	3	1	0	2	5	6	2
Belgium	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
Norway	3	0	1	2	3	6	0

Group 3

Cyprus, Spain, Rumania, Yugoslavia

4.10.78	Yugolsavia 1 Spain 2
25.10.78	Rumania 3 Yugoslavia 2
15.11.78	Spain 1 Rumania 0
13.12.78	Spain v. Cyprus
1. 4.79	Cyprus v. Yugoslavia
4. 4.79	Rumania v. Spain
13. 5.79	Cyprus v. Rumania
10.10.79	Spain v. Yugoslavia
31.10.79	Yugoslavia v. Rumania
14.11.79	Yugoslavia v. Cyprus
18.11.79	Rumania v. Cyprus
9.12.79	Cyprus v. Spain

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain	2	2	0	0	3	1	4
Rumania	2	1	0	1	3	3	2
Yugoslavia	2	0	0	2	3	5	0
Cyprus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Group 4

German DR, Iceland, Netherlands, Poland, Switzerland

6. 9.78	Iceland 0 Poland 2
20. 9.78	Netherlands 3 Iceland 0
4.10.78	German DR 3 Iceland 1
11.10.78	Switzerland 1 Netherlands 3
15.11.78	Netherlands 3 German DR 0
15.11.78	Poland 2 Switzerland 0
28. 3.79	Netherlands v. Switzerland
18. 4.79	German DR v. Poland
2. 5.79	Poland v. Netherlands
5. 5.79	Switzerland v. German DR
22. 5.79	Switzerland v. Iceland
9. 6.79	Iceland v. Switzerland
5. 9.79	Iceland v. Netherlands
12. 9.79	Iceland v. German DR
12. 9.79	Switzerland v. Poland
26. 9.79	Poland v. German DR
10.10.79	Poland v. Iceland
13.10.79	German DR v. Switzerland
17.10.79	Netherlands v. Poland
21.11.79	German DR v. Netherlands

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Holland	3	3	0	0	9	1	6
Poland	2	2	0	0	4	0	4
E. Germany	2	1	0	1	3	4	2
Iceland	3	0	0	3	1	8	0
Switzerland	1	0	0	1	0	2	0

Group 5

France, Luxemburg, Sweden, Czechoslovakia

2. 9.78	France 2 Sweden 2
4.10.78	Sweden 1 Czechoslovakia 3
7.10.78	Luxemburg 1 France 3
18. 2.79	France v. Luxemburg
4. 4.79	Czechoslovakia v. France
1. 5.79	Luxemburg v. Czechoslovakia
6/13.5.79	Sweden v. Luxemburg
5. 9.79	Sweden v. France
10.10.79	Czechoslovakia v. Sweden
23.10.79	Luxemburg v. Sweden
17.11.79	France v. Czechoslovakia
24.11.79	Czechoslovakia v. Luxemburg

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sweden	2	0	1	1	3	5	1
France	2	1	1	0	5	3	3
Czechoslovakia	1	1	0	0	3	1	2
Luxembourg	1	0	0	1	1	3	0

Group 6

Finland, Greece, Hungary, USSR

24. 5.78	Finland 3 Greece 0
20. 9.78	Finland 2 Hungary 1
20. 9.78	USSR 2 Greece 0
11.10.78	Hungary 2 USSR 0
11.10.78	Greece 8 Finland 1
28.10.78	Greece 4 Hungary 1
2. 5.79	Hungary v. Greece
19. 5.79	USSR v. Hungary
4. 7.79	Finland v. USSR
12. 9.79	Greece v. USSR
17.10.79	Hungary v. Finland
31.10.79	USSR v. Finland

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Greece	4	2	0	2	12	7	4
Finland	3	2	0	1	6	9	4
USSR	2	1	0	1	2	2	2
Hungary	3	1	0	2	4	6	2

Group 7

Germany FR, Malta, Wales, Turkey

25.10.78	Wales 7 Malta 0
29.11.78	Wales 1 Turkey 0
25. 2.79	Malta v. Germany FR
1. 4.79	Turkey v. Germany FR
2. 5.79	Wales v. Germany FR
2. 6.79	Malta v. Wales
17.10.79	Germany FR v Wales
21.11.79	Turkey v. Wales
22.12.79	Germany FR v. Turkey
27. 2.80	Germany FR v. Malta

Dates of Malta and Turkey still provisional

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wales	2	2	0	0	8	0	4
W. Germany	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Turkey	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Malta	1	0	0	1	0	7	0

England and Leeds midfield star Tony Currie who seems to have established himself in the national squad.

IPSWICH TOWN F.C.

World SOCCER

ZICO Brazil